REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900,

WITH

COMPLETE ACCOUNTS AND PROCEEDINGS,

INCLUDING THE

REPORTS OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

00109247

CALCUTTA:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA.
1901.

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY.

Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020

REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900,

WITH

COMPLETE ACCOUNTS AND PROCEEDINGS,

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

INCLUDING THE

REPORTS OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.

109247

00109247

CALCUTTA:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA.
1901.

CALCUTTA:
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL PRINTING OFFICE,
8, HASTINGS STREET.

CONTENTS.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

	PAGE
Extent of the Famines of 1897 and 1900	1
Character of the seasons between those years	*ib.*
Failure of the South-west Monsoon rains in 1899	2
Comparison between the failures in 1896 and 1899	*ib.*
The material loss sustained	3
The situation in October 1899	*ib.*
Speech by the Viceroy in Council	*ib.*
Steps taken in India towards organising charitable relief	4
Public Meeting at Calcutta	*ib.*
The Viceroy's speech	5
Resolutions adopted at the meeting	6
The objects of the Fund	*ib.*
Its organisation	7
Appointment of a Central Executive Committee	*ib.*
Meetings in other parts of India	8
Contributions in India to the Fund	9
The Maharaja of Jaipur's *Indian People's Famine Trust*	*ib.*
Grant from the Government of India	10
The Mansion House Fund, London	*ib.*
Public Meetings held in the United Kingdom	11
Appeal made by Viceroy to British Colonies	*ib.*
Contributions from Australasia	12
„ „ Canada	*ib.*
„ „ Ceylon	*ib.*
„ „ China	13
„ „ Japan	*ib.*
„ „ Siam	*ib.*
„ „ Straits Settlements	*ib.*
„ „ Mauritius	*ib.*
„ „ Natal	*ib.*
„ „ Cape Colony	*ib.*
„ „ Germany	*ib.*
Help sent by America	*ib.*
The labours of Missionaries	14
Advocacy by the Press	*ib.*
Aid by the Church	15
„ by the Stage	*ib.*
Contributions in kind	*ib.*
„ of grain	*ib.*
„ of vegetable seeds	*ib.*
„ of clothing	16
Total receipts of the Fund	*ib.*
First meeting of the Central Executive Committee	*ib.*
The Provincial Committees	17
Monthly progress by the Fund	*ib.*
First important distribution	*ib.*
Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton deputed to visit the distressed provinces	18
Grants for Native States	*ib.*
Allotments up to June 18th, 1900	*ib.*
Late Allotments	19
Question of loans or free gifts	*ib.*
Of lending instead of giving cattle	*ib.*
Of distinguishing between charitable gifts from the Fund and loans from Government	*ib.*
Anxiety regarding the rains of 1900	20
Continued distress in parts of Bombay	21
Provincial Committees' reports	*ib.*
Orphans	*ib.*
Audit of the Accounts	22
The Committee's acknowledgments of assistance	*ib.*

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS AND REPORTS DESCRIPTIVE OF THE FAMINE.

Famine in the Great Sind Desert	24
Condition of the people in Ahmedabad	*ib.*

PAGE

Famine from a lady's point of view (by a Civilian's wife in Guzerat) 25
The position in Kotah, Rajputana 27
Incidents in Rajputana 29
Method of distribution in Banswara and Pertabgarh . . . . . *ib.*
Application of the Fund in the Hilly Tracts, Mewar 30
What some of the recipients say . . . . . *ib.*
Work in Haraoti and Tonk 31
Gratuitous relief in the Hilly Tracts, Mewar 32
Some effects of the Famine in Guzerat 35
An incident in Rajputana 39
Incidents in Mewar . . . . . *ib.*

Appendix A—

Report of the Public Meeting held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on 16th February 1900 . . 41

Appendix B—

Letter of 23rd May 1900 from the Viceroy to the Lord Mayor of London 52
Letter of 8th August 1900 from the Lord Mayor of London to the Viceroy 53

Appendix C—

Extracts from Proceedings of the Council of the Governor General of India at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on 20th October 1899 and 19th October 1900 54

Appendix D—

General Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900 67

Appendix E—

Classified list of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee from the time of inauguration of the Fund to the 31st May 1901, and list of amounts received by Provincial and District Committees to be expended locally 73

Appendix F—

List of remittances made by Central Committee to Branches 79

Appendix G—

Account of Central Executive Committee's Receipts and Expenditure to 31st May 1901 . . 80

Appendix H—

Combined Accounts of the Central, Provincial and District Committees 81

Appendix I—

Cash Account of Provincial Committees up to 28th February 1901 82

Appendix K—

Particulars of expenditure under the four objects 84

BOMBAY BRANCH.

Report of the Working Committee 88
Financial Statement of the Working Committee 93
Details of grants " " " 94
Extracts from Reports from the Districts, Sholapur 96
" " " " Nasik 97
" " " " Satara . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Ahmedabad 98
" " " " Kaira 99
" " " " Cambay . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Mahi-Kantha . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Thana 100
" " " " Cutch . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Kathiawar 101
" " " " Kolhapur (Jath) . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Ditto (Jamkhandi) 102
" " " " Miraj 103
" " " " Ratnagiri . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Broach . . . . . *ib.*
" " " " Karachi 114
" " " " Hyderabad 115

	PAGE
Extracts from Reports from the Districts, Shikarpur	117
" " " " Thar and Parkar	118
" " " " Ahmednagar	121

SIND BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee	126
Financial Statement	131
Report of Hyderabad Committee	132

CENTRAL PROVINCES BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee to 31st October 1900	134
Final Report of Executive Committee to 28th February 1901	149
Financial Statements	156
Extracts from Reports from the Districts, Raipur	163
" " " " Saugor	171
" " " " Jubbulpore	173
" " " " Mandla	174
" " " " Seoni	175
" " " " Narsinghpur	177
" " " " Hoshangabad	*ib*
" " " " Chindwara	179
" " " " Nagpur	183
" " " " Bhandara	185
" " " " Chanda	187
" " " " Bilaspur	188
" " " " Damoh	189
" " " " Nimar	190
" " " " Betul	192
" " " " Wardha	194
" " " " Balaghat	196

PUNJAB BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee	199
Extracts from Reports from the Districts, Delhi	201
" " " " Hissar	*ib*
" " " " Gurgaon	202
" " " " Rohtak	*ib*
" " " " Karnal	*ib*
" " " " Ambala	*ib*
" " " " Amritsar	203
" " " " Lahore	*ib*
Report of Public Meeting held at Lahore, 28th December 1899	204
Financial Statements	210

RAJPUTANA BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee	218
Financial Statements	226
Extracts from Reports from the Districts, Marwar	231
" " " " Bikanir	234
" " " " Kotah	236
" " " " Kishengarh	240
" " " " Abu	241
" " " " Decli	243
" " " " Bundi	244
" " " " Tonk	253
" " " " Mewar	257
" " " " Kerwara and Kotra	258
" " " " Dungarpur	264
" " " " Banswara, Partabgarh, and Kushalgarh	265
" " " " Ajmer	266

BERAR BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee	274
Financial Statements	289

PAGE

MADRAS BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee 291
Report of Public Meeting held at Madras on 9th March 1900 294
Cuddapah District Report 299

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH BRANCH.

Report on operations in Jhansi District 302

BALUCHISTAN BRANCH.

Report on operations 307

BENGAL BRANCH.

Report of Executive Committee 309
Financial Statements 322

REPORT

OF

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND,

1900.

Extent of the Famines of 1897 and 1900.

IT is no unusual experience that some portion of the great Indian peninsula should suffer from either a deficiency or an excess in the annual rainfall. The years in which there has been widespread distress through a failure of the seasonal rains have generally been separated by considerable intervals, but the close of the nineteenth century has been marked by one great famine being succeeded by another and greater one within the short space of three years. The famine of 1897 affected an area of 200,000 square miles with a population of forty millions, of whom at the worst time more than three millions were receiving Government relief. That of 1900 extended over more than 450,000 square miles with a population of nearly sixty millions, and in the month of July upwards of six millions of people were being furnished by the State with the means of subsistence as shown in the following table:—

Provinces or Native States.	Famine-affected area in square miles.	Estimated population of area in column 3.	Number of persons on relief works.	Number of persons on gratuitous relief.	Total.
Madras	3,690	636,000	11,781	3,070	14,851
Bombay and Sindh	61,268	9,772,000	1,194,357	367,367	1,561,724
Bengal	4,202	604,000	11,718	5,216	16,934
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	2,500	380,000	2,584	1,418	4,002
Punjab	8,793	1,704,000	146,575	37,905	184,480
Central Provinces	79,770	9,632,000	607,597	1,421,950	2,029,547
Berar	17,717	2,897,000	384,400	173,276	557,676
Ajmer-Merwara	2,700	542,000	96,772	39,288	136,060
Total British Provinces.	180,640	26,167,000	2,455,784	2,049,490	4,505,274
Rajputana States	119,600	11,165,000	354,989	154,440	509,429
Central India States	23,770	3,502,000	110,415	41,227	151,642
Hyderabad	74,000	10,086,000	393,925	106,201	500,126
Baroda	6,400	2,069,000	69,933	31,422	101,355
Bombay Native States	39,000	5,039,000	408,845	71,149	479,994
Punjab Native States	2,200	461,000	25,592	16,529	42,121
Central Provinces Native States	6,947	855,000	18,500	43,856	62,356
Total Native States	271,917	33,177,000	1,382,199	464,824	1,847,023
Grand Total British Provinces and Native States.	452,557	59,344,000	3,837,983	2,514,314	6,352,297

The character of the seasons between those years.

The harvests of the two years which intervened between these two famines were happily so bountiful that in March 1899 the Finance Minister, Sir James Westland, when presenting the Indian Budget for 1899-1900, was able to speak as follows: "The recovery of the country has been more rapid than any of us anticipated. Another good harvest has been gathered, and although plague still casts a shadow over the land, the general condition, as evidenced by the returns of trade and revenue, is prosperous, and the famine of 1896-97 is little more than a memory, its effects being obliterated by the return of prosperous seasons. I cannot, however, pass from the subject without deriving from it the lesson which it seems to me to afford, namely, that the margin between prosperity and adversity in India must be a very narrow one; for, if we have learned that one bountiful harvest suffices to restore the country after

widespread and severe famine, we have learned also that the failure of the seasonable rain in a single month is sufficient to set back a full tide of prosperity."

Within six months from the day on which these words were spoken it began to be evident that their truth would be very practically illustrated, for the unseasonable character of the summer rains of 1896 was repeated in those of 1899 but in an intensified form.

The failure of the south-west monsoon rains in 1899.

The south-west monsoon rains, upon which the agriculture of India mainly depends, are due about the middle of June, when the *kharif* or summer crops are sown, to be reaped about November. Two wind currents originating in the south-east Trades bring these rains to India. The easterly current visits Burma, and, passing up the Bay of Bengal into the Lower Provinces, is deflected by the Himalayas westwards over the North-West Provinces and the Punjab. The westerly current travels up the Indian Ocean, and serves the rest of the peninsula. Both made a good beginning in June 1899, and the easterly current continued strong throughout most part of the season, but the westerly one soon began to flag, and as early as the first week in July complaints began to be heard from the Bombay side of want of rain. July is usually the wettest month in the Indian year, but in Central and Western India it was, in 1899, singularly dry. Thus, to take the record of the city of Bombay as an example, the rainfall of July, which there averages 25 inches, amounted to only 4 inches, and the experience of the other Provinces dependent on the western current was more or less that of Bombay. General anxiety, therefore, began to prevail, and was intensified when attention was drawn to the character of the recent rainy season in South Africa, which greatly resembled that of 1896. In the latter year Cape Colony, Natal, and the Dutch Republics received a very heavy rainfall, and the Director of the Cape Observatory ventured to suggest that the result might be a failure in the Indian south-west monsoon. The event justified his suspicions, for the Indian monsoon did fail, and the famine of 1897 was the result. The meteorological features of the South African summer in 1899 were very similar to those of 1896. There had again been very heavy rains there, due apparently to a deflection of a great part of the south-east Trades circulation towards South Africa, and the effect was already observable in the neighbourhood of Zanzibar, where severe famine had set in.

August brought no favourable change in the prospects of the Indian season, for, as the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India reported, the monsoon currents had now withdrawn from the whole of Northern India, and northerly winds, with rainless weather, prevailed over nearly the whole of the peninsula, which could only be terminated by a fresh advance especially over the Indian Ocean. The easterly current fortunately did resume its advance, thus saving Bengal and the North-West Provinces, but there was no change on the western side, and by September it was quite evident that there must be serious scarcity in most of the provinces dependent on that current. From Berar, through the Central Provinces, the Central India States, and Rajputana, up to the southern districts of the Punjab such crops as had been sown were withering, prices were rising, and in some parts mortality among cattle was reported. As early as September, it was found necessary to start relief works in some districts, and in October the numbers being relieved by Government were 63,000 in Bombay, 71,000 in the Punjab, 121,000 in the Central Provinces, 28,000 in Berar, and 70,000 in Ajmer and Merwara—in all 250,000 persons in British India. During the same month in 1896 the numbers had only been 50,000. The distress was greater and more widespread than it had been three years previously.

Comparison between the failures in 1896 and 1899.

This was due not only to the rains having failed over a wider area, but also because the failure was much more complete than it had been in 1896. In that year, though they ended prematurely, they were heavier than in 1899, and though the *kharif* crop withered without yielding a harvest, the soil still remained sufficiently moist for the sowing of the *rabi* or winter crop which is reaped in April, and yielded moderately, as it requires little aid from rainfall and depends largely upon the dews of the cold season. In 1899, on the other hand, the south-west rains were so scanty that by November the soil had become too dry and hard to admit of a *rabi* crop being even tried, or where a trial was made, the seed failed to germinate. For the same reason, the failure of pasture was greater than it had been three years before, and the mortality among cattle

became appalling especially in Bombay, Rajputana, and Central India. Water failed not only for cattle, but in some cases for human use as well.

The material loss sustained.

It may perhaps assist some in realising the extent of the misfortune which had befallen the country if, neglecting the physical suffering produced, some idea be given of the material loss sustained. This was described in Parliament by the Secretary of State in the following words: "The wheat crop in a normal year is estimated to amount in value to £24,000,000. This year, I am informed, it cannot be more than £10,000,000. The cotton industry employs a larger number of persons than any other industry except agriculture. The value of the cotton crop in a normal year is £12,000,000. This year it cannot be more than £5,000,000. Another very lucrative crop is that of oil-seeds. The average value of that crop is not less than £18,000,000. This year it has disappeared altogether. I am informed on reliable authority that the reduction in the harvest in Bombay alone cannot be put at less than £15,000,000 excluding the frightful loss in cattle."

The situation in October 1899.

In October 1899 the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz, Member of the Viceroy's Council in charge of the Revenue Department, made an announcement in Council that famine was inevitable in many parts of the country, though it was too early to estimate accurately its severity or extent. By January 1900 no room was left for doubt, and the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson, who had meanwhile succeeded Mr. Rivaz, reviewed the position in the light of the latest information received by Government. He stated that the normal time for the winter rains had then passed, and unfortunately every factor that had been doubtful in October had turned out unfavourably. Abnormally high day temperatures and a scorching sun had been accompanied by an absence of the usual dews at night, while the cold season had been extraordinarily rainless. These conditions had still further injured the autumn crop, and contracted the area and diminished the prospects of the spring harvest, thus greatly intensifying the distress and increasing the demand for relief. Famine, or at least scarcity, must exist not only in those provinces in which the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz had expected it, but in large areas the fate of which was then doubtful. He said: "In October last the famine area was estimated to comprise about 100,000 square miles in British territory with a population of 15 millions, and about 250,000 square miles in Native territory with a population also of about 15 millions. Revised estimates now show the famine area in British territory as not less than 140,000 square miles with a population of 22 millions. In a further area of about 10,000 square miles with a population of about 2½ millions, scarcity and distress prevail of a sufficiently general character to require the opening of test works and the other preliminary measures of the Famine Codes. In a further area of about 65,000 square miles with a population of about 10 millions, scarcity exists which may hereafter require relief, though at present there is fortunately neither general nor pronounced distress. In Native territory the famine area (including tracts where conditions of severe scarcity approximating to famine prevail) may be approximately put at 230,000 square miles with a population of 27 millions. The acutely distressed or true famine area in Native territory may be roughly taken to be about 150,000 or 160,000 square miles with a population of about 18 millions. The aggregate famine area in British India and Native States will thus be about 300,000 square miles with a population of 40 millions. And there is a further area of about 145,000 square miles with a population of 21 millions in which more or less general scarcity and distress prevail, and where relief is already being given in a tentative form, or will probably have to be given before the advent of the next monsoon."

The Viceroy, following Mr. Ibbetson, spoke as follows:—

Speech by the Viceroy in Council.

"Those Hon'ble Members who were present at the last meeting of this Council in the Simla Session on 20th October last, when statements were made upon the approaching famine by Mr. Rivaz and myself, will remember that even then the Government of India were seriously impressed with the gravity of the situation, and that our speeches were coloured with a profound anxiety as to what might yet be in store for us. Nothing that I saw in my ensuing tour, in the course of which I visited many of the suffering areas, in any way relieved that anxiety. On the contrary, it was already evident, from the number

of persons in receipt of relief or engaged upon relief works, from the stream of humanity pouring in upon them daily from all quarters of the country, and from the complete disappearance, that was almost universally reported to me, of the old-fashioned reluctance entertained by the Indian peasant to the acceptance, except in the last resort, of charitable relief, that we were likely, as time passed by, and if no rain were to fall in the winter months, to be confronted with a calamity as great as, if not greater than, has ever befallen this country, so used, in consequence of the immense numbers of the population, to calamity on a large scale, so inured from previous experience, to this particular aspect of human suffering.

"The statement which has just been made on behalf of the Government of India by Mr. Ibbetson will have shown you that these gloomy anticipations have been more than fulfilled; that the area of visitation has expanded to a degree that has even surpassed our worst fears; that except in certain favoured provinces and localities, every condition of nature and climate appears during the past three months to have fought against us; and that we are now face to face with a famine, of water, of food, of cattle, which in the particular areas affected is unprecedented in character and intensity. These are no rash words. From Bombay, from Rajputana, from the Central Provinces, in the reports that reach me, I continually come across the same idea, the same regretful confession, the same melancholy phrase. When, exactly three years ago, on 14th January 1897, Lord Elgin presided over a great public meeting held in Calcutta to consider the then famine, he observed that 1¼ millions of persons were already on relief, and that the occasion had no parallel. In the present week of January 1900 there are nearly 3½ millions of persons on relief, and the parallel has come, and alas! has been left far behind.

"There is another respect in which the conditions are entirely different now. At that time the attention of England, and one might almost say of Europe, was turned upon suffering India. Hundreds of thousands of pounds were contributed and sent out by generous hearts and eager hands. The whole external world seemed to share our sorrow, and in the different forms open to it contributed to the alleviation of Indian distress. Now we have to suffer and to struggle alone. It is not that England, or the British Empire, or humanity at large, has become less sympathetic or more niggardly. Our troubles, in so far as they are known in England, will excite just as genuine and poignant emotions as on the previous occasion. But, as we all know, the whole thoughts of England, and of almost every Englishman throughout the world, are fixed upon the war in South Africa, and upon that alone. Even in this country we feel the patriotic excitement and the nervous strain, whether we be Europeans or natives; and how much more must it be so in England, where the honour and prestige of the old country are felt to be at stake, and where almost every hearth has given some near or dear one to danger. And equally, if the war absorbs all interest, so does it exhaust the national generosity. I am afraid it is too much to expect that England can again come to our rescue this time, as she did so splendidly in 1897, or that, so far as can at present be judged, we can anywhere outside of this country expect a more than passive sympathy with our misfortunes."

Steps taken in India towards organising charitable relief.

Before these important announcements were made, steps had been taken towards furnishing charitable relief to the poorest sufferers in those of the provinces in which distress was greatest. Rajputana was the first to move, as early as September 1899, by forming a Committee at Ajmer, and smaller committees at various centres, for the collection of subscriptions and distribution of relief. Bombay and the Punjab followed, in December, by holding public meetings presided over by the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor. There, too, Provincial and District Committees were established, and efforts were continuously made to stimulate private charity.

Public meeting at Calcutta.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund of 1900 was inaugurated on February 15th, at Calcutta, when a large and enthusiastic meeting was called together by the Sheriff in the Town Hall, which was packed to overflowing, chiefly by natives, so that many had to stand. The chair was taken by the Viceroy, and speeches, enthusiastically applauded, were made by His Excellency, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Chief Justice of Bengal,

the Maharaja of Darbhanga, Prince Mahomed Bukhtyar Shah, the Bishop of Calcutta, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and other leading members of European and native society. After describing the unprecedented extent of the famine and the measures taken by Government to relieve the suffering, the Viceroy said:—

The Viceroy's speech.

"A month ago I hardly contemplated that great and increasing as our sufferings were, we could expect very much practical assistance from England. Sympathy from all, help from the particular friends of India, contributions from the few, I felt certain that we should receive. But that in the midst of all its anxieties and troubles the British nation should open wide its purse to us seemed to me unlikely and even not to be expected. Never was I more pleased than when I ascertained that I had underrated the degree of interest which many of my countrymen in England take in India, however great their absorption in other affairs; and when the Lord Mayor came forward and offered to place the prestige and help of the Mansion House at our disposal; I felt that to all in England who were willing to give the opportunity should not be denied, and that, though the old country could not do for us again what it did in 1896-97, something of value might be expected from its generosity. It is in these circumstances that a branch of the Fund which we are about to inaugurate this afternoon is being opened to-day in London. Meanwhile we had already decided to open an Indian Famine Fund here and to make our appeal to the whole country. My first step was to ask Her Majesty the Queen-Empress whether she would again consent, as in 1897, to be patron of the Fund. Along with her gracious acceptance of this post, Her Majesty generously announced a contribution of £1,000 towards the Fund. In India I have already found a like generosity to prevail. Before this meeting or this Fund was made known, the Maharaja of Darbhanga came to me, and in that spirit of open-handed and large-hearted munificence which we have learned to associate with his name offered to inaugurate any such Fund by a princely donation of one and a half lakhs (£10,000). Other generous offers and promises have since followed. I may mention the following additional donations:—

	₹
Maharani of Hatwa	1,00,000
British India Steam Navigation Company and Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co.	80,000
Nawab of Dacca	50,000
Maharaja of Burdwan	10,000
Messrs. Ralli Brothers, in addition to ₹20,000 given in Bombay, ₹30,000 in all	10,000
Messrs. Apcar & Co.	10,000
„ Cooper, Allen & Co.	10,000
„ Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.	5,000
„ Graham & Co.,—and ₹5,000 promised in Bombay, ₹10,000 in all	5,000
„ Thomas Duff & Co.	5,000
„ Birkmyre Brothers	5,000
„ Schröder, Smidt & Co.	5,000
„ Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co.	5,000
India General Steam Navigation Company and Messrs. Kilburn & Co.	5,000
Messrs. Barry & Co.	5,000
„ Jardine, Skinner & Co.	5,000
	or in all ₹4,65,000"

His Excellency went on to explain the objects to which the charity would be applied: "Wide as is the scope of the sphere of Government duty, inasmuch as it includes the whole duty of saving life, it is not so ample as to leave no margin for outside assistance. We are not asking you to relieve Government of its due burden or to save us from one penny of expenditure that ought properly to fall upon our shoulders. Whatever you give us will make no difference in the extent and character of our outlay. But for all that there is an ample field for private generosity, both in supplement to that which the State can do and must do, and often in pursuit of that which the State cannot do at all. It is our task to keep the people alive and to see them safely through the period of their sufferings. But no expert knowledge is required to recognise that there are a hundred ways in which the condition of their sufferings may be alleviated while they still last, and a fresh start in the world be given to the sufferers when the

worst is over. We ask your money to provide warm raiment, clothes, and blankets for the poor workers who spend their nights out of doors either in the open air or under flimsy mats of straw. Later on, when the rains come, the same covering will be required to ward off the chills that bring fever and dysentery in their train. Think again of the good that may be done by the distribution of small comforts of milk and arrowroot and cornflour and other medicinal sustenance to the aged and infirm, to invalids, and above all to children. A third object to which the funds subscribed by charity are devoted is the relief of orphans. Then there is a class who appeal peculiarly for private assistance since they deliberately, though for the most honourable motives, elect to stand outside of State relief. I allude to the *purdanashin* women, whom our system does not touch, and to the destitute but respectable persons and classes who are too proud to apply for Government relief, who find it derogatory to labour, and who would sooner die than beg. Finally, there remains the great object upon which the bulk of the money that was subscribed in 1897 was spent, namely, the provision of cattle, of grain, of fodder, of implements to enable the sufferers to make a start again in life when the time of adversity is past. Government does what it can in such cases by *taccavi* advances, by remissions of rent, and otherwise, but it is beyond our power to cover the whole field that is open, and there is not a donor, however humble, in India or in England, of even a rupee or a shilling, to our cause, who may not be honestly confident that that petty sum will bring a ray of light, a dawn of hope into the heart of some unhappy peasant who for months will not have known what light or hope were."

In addition to the subscriptions announced by the Viceroy, promises were made, before the crowd dispersed, which brought the sum total up to ₹5,40,847-8-0.

Resolutions adopted at the meeting.

The Resolutions adopted at this meeting were the following :—

I. That this meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a Charitable Fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India; that the need of relief is more urgent than it was in 1897, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations; and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country, and contributions from abroad be thankfully received.

II. That this meeting accepts the statements of the objects to which private subscriptions may be legitimately devoted as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of 9th January 1897 (copy extract circulated) and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund, and resolves that a General Committee composed of the following gentlemen (list circulated) be appointed with power to add to their number and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund.

The objects of the Fund.

The objects, four in number, set forth in the *Gazette of India* were these :—

Government fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with it, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organised for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially, private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects :—

Firstly : *in supplementing the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for patients in hospitals, for children and the like.*

As guardian of the public purse and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life.

Secondly : *in providing for the maintenance of orphans.*

Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves.

Thirdly : *in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of, the destitution which is to be relieved.*

The feeling of the sacredness of the *'purdah'* or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach or even to ascertain with certainty the existence of distress of this nature.

Fourthly: *in restoring to their original position those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*

The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day-labourer.

Its organization.

The organisation suggested by the Government of India for the collection and administration of private subscriptions was as follows:—

(1) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee, for the provision and administration of charitable relief, to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each province likely to be affected by famine to be invited. The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee, consisting of a limited number of members, to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee. The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be—

(*a*) to receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries, and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The Fund so created to be termed "The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900";

(*b*) to apportion these moneys between the different provinces;

(*c*) to arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.

(2) A Committee to be formed in each province, which will receive the moneys apportioned to that province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval of the Local Government.

(3) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.

(4) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency, which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

Appointment of a Central Executive Committee.

The General Committee appointed on February 15th met four days later in the Committee Room of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which was kindly placed at their disposal, and passed the following resolutions:—

That the following gentlemen form the Executive Committee to administer to the Fund with power to add to their number:—

Chairman:

The Hon'ble Sir Francis W. Maclean, K.C.I.E., Chief Justice of Bengal.

Members:

The Hon'ble Mr. Denzil Ibbetson, C.S.I.
T. W. Holderness, Esq., C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. K. Spence, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Kumar Sir Hurnam Singh, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur.
Sir Patrick Playfair, Kt., C.I.E.
Mr. G. H. Sutherland (President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce).
The Hon'ble Mr. T. W. Spink.
The Hon'ble the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga.

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I.
Rai Hari Ram Goenka Bahadur (President, Marwari Association).
Raja Sheo Bux Bagla.
The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Slacke.
Hon'ble Prince Mahomed Bukhtyar Shah, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. P. Ananda Charlu, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. Donald Smeaton, C.S.I.—Member and Honorary Secretary.

In order to provide for the representation on the General Committee of leading members of all sections of the community, it was moved and unanimously adopted—

That the General Committee authorise the Executive Committee to make such additions to the General Committee as they may from time to time think fit.

The Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton then explained to the meeting a suggestion made by His Excellency the Viceroy for invoking the aid of the Heads of Provincial Governments in their capacity as Vice-Presidents. His Excellency was of opinion that the striking example of Calcutta at the public meeting of the 16th might well be followed by the other Presidencies and provincial capitals, and suggested that public meetings similar to that of the 16th instant at Calcutta might, with great advantage to the Fund, be held at these places. His Excellency had expressed himself as prepared to invite the co-operation of the Vice-Presidents (with perhaps the exception of those of Bombay and Punjab, where public meetings had already been held) to raise funds specially for these provinces. His Excellency's suggestion was most cordially received, and the following resolution was passed unanimously :—

That His Excellency the President of the General Committee be asked to invite the following Vice-Presidents to convene Public Meetings at their respective Capitals similar to the Public Meeting held in Calcutta on the 16th February, for the purpose of inaugurating funds in aid of the General Relief Fund launched in Calcutta on the 16th February :—

His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras.

His Honour Sir A. P. Macdonnell, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

His Honour Sir Frederic Fryer, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Burma.

A. H. L. Fraser, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

H. J. S. Cotton, Esq., C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Some changes were subsequently made in the composition of the Executive Committee. Owing to the inability of Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore to attend the meetings, his son, Maharaj-Kumar Prodyat Kumar Tagore was elected in his place. The Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz, on his return to India, succeeded the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson. The Hon'ble Mr. Elworthy also succeeded the Hon'ble Mr. Spink when the latter proceeded to England, and, when the Hon'ble Mr. D. Smeaton was obliged at the end of March to resign the Honorary Secretaryship, that office was accepted by Mr. A. F. Cox, Comptroller and Auditor General.

Meetings in other parts of India.

In addition to the public meetings at Bombay and Lahore already referred to, others were held, after the Calcutta Town Hall meeting, in most of the remaining provinces. Committees were formed for the collection of subscriptions and, where famine prevailed, for administering relief in co-operation with the Central Committee at Calcutta. The earliest of these took place at Rangoon on February 27th. The Central Provinces followed on March 1st; the North-Western Provinces on March 8th; Madras and Sind on March 9th; Central India on March 21st; Mysore on March 22nd; and Berar on March 24th. No public meeting was held in Assam owing to the scantiness of the population of its capital, Shillong, but the Chief Commissioner addressed letters to all his Deputy Commissioners, who made arrangements for collecting funds. In Bengal and Baroda, too, Committees were formed without the preliminary of a public meeting. Thus by the end of March every province of India was earnestly at work in aid of the Famine Fund.

Contributions in India to the Fund.

The sum raised in India itself and entrusted to the Central Committee for distribution amounted to ₹22,49,565, while affiliated Committees received ₹16,33,657 for local expenditure in addition to the grants supplied from Calcutta. Thus Indian charity administered through the various Committees of the Fund came to ₹38,83,223. If it were possible to ascertain how much has been spent in the same work independently of the Committees, the total would undoubtedly be a large one; for the people of India are proverbially charitable, and the terrible suffering often encountered in spite of the unstinted liberality of the Government was such as to quicken the charitable instincts of even a callous disposition. Thus the Honorary Secretary of the Marwari Association in Calcutta, in reply to a request that he would assist the Committee, replied that his community had already started a fund of their own, the proceeds of which were being forwarded to Rajputana for the relief of their people there. The Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, when he visited that Province in April 1900, reported that the sum thus remitted from Calcutta was as much as ₹11,00,000. Reference has already been made to the generous donations of the Maharaja of Darbhanga and the Maharani of Hatwa at the Calcutta Town Hall Meeting. The former of these subsequently forwarded ₹5,000 from his wife, the Maharani, and similar sums from his mother and from the two widows of the late Maharaja, his brother. A very conspicuous instance of similar benevolence was shown by the Maharaja of Jaipur, who in March 1900 wrote to the Viceroy stating that His Excellency's speech at the Town Hall had impelled him to offer the sum of ₹15,00,000 to be invested as a permanent fund for the relief of famine in any part of India. Though there was some delay in making the investment, the Maharaja paid over to the Committee in July the sum of ₹27,486 as representing the interest which would have been realised had the investment been made at once. As the sum promised was sufficient to purchase nearly 16 lakhs of Government Securities, the Maharaja added what was needed for such an investment, and in 1900, as a memorial of Queen Victoria he added further Government Securities of the nominal value of 4 lakhs, thus making his endowment up to 20 lakhs. Future Famine Funds will, therefore, benefit by the accumulated interest of this splendid endowment, which is styled the *Indian People's Famine Trust.*

The Maharaja of Jaipur's *Indian People's Famine Trust.*

Distributed between the various provinces and sources, the Fund's Indian receipts have been as follows:—

	Received by Central Committee.			Received by Provincial Committees for local expenditure.		
	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.
Bengal branch	3,13,766	0	0	.....		
North-Western Provinces ,,	3,90,551	11	8	.....		
Punjab ,,	.....			2,62,521	3	4
Madras ,,	1,85,345	9	6	68,890	9	4
Bombay ,,	.....			7,50,220	1	10
Burma ,,	2,78,000	0	0	.....		
Rajputana ,,	400	0	0	99,506	2	7
Central India ,,	2,985	5	6	65,356	11	3
Central Provinces ,,	.....			2,66,830	8	3
Berar ,,	.....			1,19,612	6	9
Mysore ,,	64,700	0	0	.....		
Sind ,,	1,13,290	0	0	.....		
Hyderabad ,,	.....			720	0	0
Assam ,,	32,213	0	2	.....		
Native Chiefs	4,15,386	14	6			
Merchants	2,81,650	0	0			
Calcutta trades	15,478	6	6			
Public offices, etc.	27,776	7	11			
Regiments and batteries	15,842	13	7			
Church collection	7,121	9	9			
Schools	2,873	15	0			
Station hospitals	386	3	0			
Unclassified	1,01,797	10	1			
TOTAL	22,49,565	11	2	16,33,657	11	4

Burma.

In connection with the contribution from Burma it may be remarked that special generosity was shown by two of the poorer districts of that province which suffered in the 1897 famine and received help from India. The people seem to have remembered the liberality with which they were then aided and to have shown their gratitude by subscribing liberally to the present Fund.

Of the total sum shown as received by the Central Committee, ₹7,35,092 was contributed by residents in Bengal who paid to that Committee, and this sum should therefore be added to the ₹3,13,766-0-0 shown as received from the Bengal Committee.

Grant from the Government of India.

From the Government of India the Committee received for twelve months a grant of ₹1,500 a month, which has covered not only the cost of office establishment, but also of freight and forwarding charges of the gifts which have been received, so that the contributions to the Fund, together with interest on them, have been wholly available for the relief of distress. Government also remitted all import duty on goods consigned to the Committee. In connection with forwarding charges, Mr. Lewis, a public carrier of Calcutta and Howrah, charged nothing more than his out-of-pocket expenses.

The Mansion House Fund, London.

Meanwhile England, though greatly absorbed by the events of the war in South Africa and busily occupied in collecting money to supply the wants of her absent soldiers, and of the families which they had left behind them, did not continue indifferent to the misfortune of her great dependency. On January 23rd the Lord Mayor of London, whose attention had been aroused by the Viceroy's recent speech in Council, wrote to the Secretary of State for India offering to open a *Mansion House Famine Fund*, though he hardly expected it to attain to anything like the same dimensions as the funds of 1877 and 1897. The kindly offer was accepted by Lord George Hamilton after consultation with the Viceroy, but with some hesitation, which the event happily proved to be needless, lest the result of such a national appeal should prove hardly worthy of the British nation or indicative of the sympathy really felt for India in her distress. The Mansion House Fund was accordingly opened on February 17th, but prior to that date contributions had already begun to reach the Lord Mayor, and on February 14th he was able to remit the sum of £30,009, and the announcement of its arrival was received with much enthusiasm at the Calcutta meeting. This promising beginning was no doubt largely due to the sympathetic advocacy of the *Times* newspaper, which, on January 29th, published a leading article combating the idea that England's trouble in South Africa furnished any reason for neglecting to send help to India. In announcing the opening of the *Mansion House Famine Fund* the Lord Mayor enforced the same argument. "The assumption," he wrote, "that, because vast sums are pouring in from all parts of the world for the sufferers by the war, the compassion of the public is either exhausted or even strained, needs only to be stated to be brushed away. The burden of empire entails responsibilities as well as privileges, but both are combined when, with that large-heartedness characteristic of the British race, mercy and pity are ungrudgingly displayed as well for the welfare of our gallant men in South Africa as for the famine-stricken population in India. In the charities incident to the war none, in spite of their own distress, have shown more genuine concern than the people of India, as is testified by the collection spontaneously raised among the native troops for the families of their British comrades with whom in past campaigns they have fought shoulder to shoulder for the Empress-Queen. Those enlightened rulers, the Native Princes, have also exhibited their traditional and most munificent liberality."

Among the earliest subscriptions received at the Mansion House were £1,000 from Her Majesty Queen Victoria; Gs. 250 and Gs. 100 from Their Majesties the present King and Queen, and £100 from Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall. The total sum remitted from this fund amounted to ₹58,15,255 (about £388,000). The subscribers were naturally, for the most part, residents in the United Kingdom, but money was also sent to the Lord Mayor from Mentone, Montreaux, Lausanne, Cannes, Bordighera, Geneva, Genoa, Naples, Trieste, Havre, Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malta, St. Petersburgh, Moscow, Odessa, and Athens on the Continent of Europe; also from Egypt, Canada (New Brunswick, Victoria B. C. and Manitoba), Singapore Natal, Fiji

(upwards of £1,000), New Zealand (Auckland, Greymouth, Thames, and Oamaru), Trinidad, Jamaica, Buenos Aires, Pernambuco, Macao, Ceard, Rio de Janeiro, San Paolo (Brazil), and San Francisco. From some of these countries remittances were also made directly to India.

Public Meetings held in the United Kingdom.

In addition to establishing the *Mansion House Fund* in London, the Lord Mayor appealed to the Lord Mayors and Mayors of England and Ireland and the Lord Provosts and Provosts of Scotland to associate themselves with him in collecting subscriptions. A town meeting was accordingly held at Manchester on February 28th, at which £8,000 were subscribed; at Liverpool on February 27th, when upwards of £5,000 were promised; at Portsmouth on March 5th; at Belfast on March 6th, when an ex-Viceroy of India, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, addressed the meeting; at Edinburgh on March 9th, when a sympathetic letter from another ex-Viceroy, the Earl of Elgin, was read; at Glasgow on March 12th, when nearly £5,000 were promised and from whence within a month £20,000 were actually remitted to India; at Dublin on May 25th, and at many other towns in the United Kingdom of which the Committee in India have received no precise information. On May 8th, a second meeting gathered at Manchester, under the presidency of Lord Derby, of the representatives of boroughs and other public authorities in the county of Lancashire, and the *Lancashire County Fund* was established, having as its Secretary an old friend of India, Sir Frank Forbes Adam. The amount received from various sources in the United Kingdom has totalled R93,88,771 (nearly £627,000) against R1,23,01,737 (then equal to upwards of £750,000) in 1897. The deficiency fully accounted for by the circumstances of the time; indeed, the response made to India's appeal has been far in excess of the expectations of the Committee in India. Considerable sums have also been received by missionaries from their Societies and from friends at home, which did not pass through the hands of the Committee. The details of the receipts by the Committee from the United Kingdom are the following *:—

		R	a.	p.
Mansion House	Fund	58,15,255	14	9
Lancashire County	,,	16,56,915	13	3
Liverpool	,,	4,57,428	7	4
Southport	,,	34,759	7	5
Birkdale	,,	8,233	14	11
Glasgow	,,	8,37,340	8	0
Paisley	,,	28,144	2	4
Edinburgh	,,	1,93,904	14	6
Dublin	,,	52,771	9	9
Christian Offering to India		1,18,015	14	10
The "Christian Age"	Fund	36,474	7	7
Lord Scarsdale's	,,	36,317	11	4
Miscellaneous		1,13,208	9	4
	TOTAL	93,88,771	7	4

The *Christian Offering to India* Fund was promoted by Lord Radstock, who circulated among many hundreds of churches and chapels an appeal signed by the Archbishop of York, twelve Bishops, six Peers, thirteen Members of Parliament, and other distinguished persons. The *Christian Age* Fund was started by Mr. Harold Wheeler, publisher of that paper, and of another called *Great Thoughts*. Of the subscriptions obtained by him R3,460 were specially given by readers of the *Christian Age* for orphans. Lord Scarsdale, father of His Excellency the Viceroy, opened two funds: one was styled the *Appeal for Indian Famine* Fund, and the other was composed of payments made by the public admitted to view Keddleston Hall, Lord Scarsdale's seat in Derbyshire. The chief items among miscellaneous receipts were from the Earl of Northbrook R7,398, from Lord Stanley of Alderly R5,919, from the Earl of Zetland R2,976, from Lady Miller of Monderston R3,735, being the proceeds of bazaar, and from the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company R75,000.

Appeal made by the Viceroy to British Colonies.

Substantial help having been received from British Colonies in 1897, it was decided to appeal to them in the still greater calamity of 1900. Telegrams were accordingly sent by the Viceroy to the Governor-General of Canada,

* This classification gives somewhat fuller details than that in Appendix E.

the Governors of Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South and West Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Mauritius, Hongkong, and Gibraltar, and the Consul General, Shanghai. In many cases the replies were far from encouraging. The Colonies were subscribing to the *Mansion House Patriotic Fund* and also raising money for the equipment of a local contingent for South Africa, and for helping the widows and orphans of those colonists who might fall in the war. Feeling that the time was inopportune for making a public appeal on behalf of India, some of the Australasian Governments voted contributions from their treasuries. A few were more sanguine, and, in particular, a hopeful note was struck by South Australia, which telegraphed, "South Australia rejoices in splendid Indian loyalty. *Register* and *Advertiser* newspapers will forward subscriptions to Famine Fund." It soon became clear that the generous impulses of the Colonies had been underrated, for contributions to the Fund of 1900 have, in the case of almost all, largely exceeded those made in 1897. The receipts of both years from Australasia are contrasted below :—

	1897.	1900.
	₹	₹
Victoria	93,879	62,259
New South Wales	20,199	2,40,636
Queensland	12,603	45,394
South Australia	5,843	71,914
West „	22,592	44,766
New Zealand	32,440	2,99,733
Tasmania	6,922	21,942

Australasian Contributions.

The Committee desire to express their grateful appreciation of the splendid generosity shown by these colonies and especially by New Zealand and New South Wales. From the latter colony they have received an interesting report which shows that three public meetings were held, presided over by the Governor, Earl Beauchamp, and a Committee formed which issued 10,000 circulars and 500 subscription lists, which the Post Master General exempted from postage. Municipalities were specially appealed to to organise branch funds within their districts. The Press gave hearty aid; the four dailies of Sydney published news about the movement free of cost, while the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* opened a Fund of its own and raised no less than £3,400. Contributions in kind were carried by the railways free, and were carted and handed by Sydney firms gratuitously, while many gentlemen generously gave much time to the Secretariat and record work. Of the New South Wales subscriptions a sum of £79-19-9 was made up of penny contributions from Sydney children received through the *Sunday Times*. Similar efforts, no doubt, in the other colonies led to the singular and unexpected success which attended the movement in aid of India.

Canada.

The contributions from Canada reached the sum of ₹48,943, and the Managing Director of the *Halifax Herald* wrote of his remittance that "a goodly proportion of the money has been contributed by the school children of Nova Scotia."

Ceylon.

A fund was opened in Ceylon by His Excellency the Governor of that Colony, the Director of Public Instruction undertaking the Honorary Secretaryship. The receipts have amounted to ₹2,06,572, and in forwarding the last remittance the Committee pointed out that the total contribution has been swelled by a very large number of small contributions from the poorer Buddhists of Ceylon who were anxious to help the Hindus and Mahomedans of India in their distress.

The remittances from China, R2,21,705 in all, came from Shanghai (R1,53,800), Hong Kong (R56,640), Tientsin (R7,280), Amoy (R1,510) and Ningpo (R1,509). Nor was this money chiefly contributed by European residents, for Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Shanghai stated that over two-thirds came from native Chinese officials and gentry. In Ningpo the Chinese Intendent of the Circuit subscribed $100, and each of the three prefectures comprising his circuit sent $300. In the other contributing districts Chinese sympathy was no doubt similarly manifested. China.

There is much of interest in connection with the aid sent by Japan. From Tokio came R22,000 through the British Chargé d'Affaires, the proceeds of a fund started by two Indians named Rama Kant Rai and Pran Singh, who were studying in the Engineering College of the University there. They drew up an appeal on behalf of their suffering countrymen at home, which was supported by many, if not all, of the Professorial Staff of Tokio. The President of the University explained that the remittance was made up of many small contributions, often from children who had given their pocket money, and women their hair pins, in order to succour the distressed in a foreign land. Some of the Buddhist priesthood, too, seem to have been warmly interested in the misfortune of the country which was the birthplace of their religion. Thus the officials of the temple of the principal Shinsin Sect of Kioto collected R629, and those of the temple at Rinzai sent R720. Japan.

Siam sent R6,663, of which R5,000 came from the King with a sympathetic letter. The rest seems to have been collected from European residents by the *Siam Observer* and *Bangkok Times*. Siam.

The Straits Settlements furnished R2,16,229, of which R30,000 was voted by the Legislative Council in April 1900 out of public funds. Private subscriptions were received by Committees formed at Singapore and Penang with branches in the Federated States and Borneo. Straits Settlements.

In Mauritius the local Chamber of Agriculture, at the instance of the Governor, undertook the work of collection and remitted the sum of R18,457. Mauritius.

The help furnished by Natal merits special notice. Harassed as that Colony had been during the war, which interrupted its trade and ruined its agriculture, no expectation was entertained in India that it would be in a position to send any contribution whatever, and no official appeal was therefore addressed to it. But Mr. Mitchell, Emigration Agent for Natal at Calcutta, early in June sent notices printed in three languages to the Protector of Emigrants at Durban calling the attention of Indian emigrants to the sufferings of their brethren at home. The result was that a Committee was formed under the patronage of the Governor, and not only did Indians subscribe, but the colonists themselves showed their appreciation of the military help so promptly rendered by India, and of the gallantry and good conduct of the native followers of the Indian contingents, by liberally joining in the movement. The sum of £4,748-10-0 was remitted from Natal through the *Mansion House Fund*. Natal.

From Cape Colony came direct to India the sum of R17,153, in which were included R92 subscribed by the coloured children of St. Peters Mission School, Port Elizabeth, and R621 got together at Uitenhage by the Guild of Royal Women of that place. Cape Colony.

Subscriptions have also been received from foreign countries. In May a remittance of R4,14,492 arrived from Germany with the following telegram from the Emperor to the Viceroy:—"Full of deepest sympathy for terrible distress in India, Berlin has with my approval realised a sum of over half a million marks. I have ordered it to be forwarded to Calcutta to be placed at Your Excellency's disposal. May India feel in this action on the part of the German Empire the deep sense of sympathetic love which prompts my people, and which emanates from the fact that blood is richer than water." Germany.

Contributions also came from America to the amount of R1,25,356, but this by no means represents the extent to which the American people afforded relief. In order, therefore, to give an adequate idea of the share taken by that country in the charitable work, some details are given in this report of the remittances received from thence, although the money was not entrusted to the Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The gifts came in four ways: (1) from religious newspapers and Missionary Societies to missions of various denominations—about R18,00,000; (2) from the *Christian Herald* Help sent by America.

newspaper of New York to an *Interdenominational Missionary Committee* of seven missionaries—about ₹11,00,000; (3) from a *Committee of a Hundred Prominent Citizens of New York*, with Mr. William E. Dodge as President, and from co-operating Committees in other American Cities, to a Committee in Bombay called the *Americo-Indian Relief Committee*—about ₹6,00,000; and (4) from individuals, newspapers and Committees in America to friends, or individual Missionary Societies in India—about ₹3,00,000. These sums, totalling ₹38,00,000 (upwards of £250,000), are estimated to have been contributed in charity by America, chiefly by those interested in Indian Missions who, therefore, desired to employ Missionary Agency. The prisoners in one jail, who were able to earn money by their jail labour, sent about ₹75.

Interest in the work seems first to have been excited by the Marathi Mission of the American Board in Western India, who in November 1899 telegraphed to Dr. Klopsch, the proprietor of the *Christian Herald*, asking his aid. He made the appeal known in his paper, and arranged for the formation of the Missionary Committee in Bombay, over which the Revd. E. S. Hume at first presided, his place being taken, when ill health forced him to leave India, by his brother the Revd. R. A. Hume, D.D. Besides money, this Committee also received from the *Christian Herald* a cargo of about 5,000 tons of maize, which arrived at Bombay late in June, and was welcomed by the Committee, and by representatives of the Government of Bombay, and of various sections of the community. The Port Trust remitted the usual fees, and Messrs. W. and A. Graham & Co., with their native agents, Messrs. Khimji Lakmidas & Co., undertook without profit the handling of the corn, while the railroads remitted a considerable portion of their ordinary charges. The grain was itself worth ₹3,75,000, and the cost of its transport, nearly ₹1,25,000, was paid by the Government of the United States. In evidence of the real and widespread sympathy amongst the farmers of America for their distressed fellow agriculturists in India represented in this noble gift, the Government of India received a spontaneous communication from a farmer of South Dakota, who, together with some thirty friends, had despatched nearly seven hundred bushels to the *Christian Herald*. "This corn," he wrote, "was raised from the farmers, every kernel of which the honest and hard-working farmers of this country raised, and now we will share what we have with the starving people of your country, and we will look to our Father in Heaven for our reward."

Early in May Dr. Klopsch himself visited India and spent three weeks in travelling through some of the affected districts. He then arranged for the distribution of 100,000 blankets at the beginning of the rainy season, and undertook to supply, with the aid of the *Christian Herald*, the means of support of at least 5,000 orphan children, for one year, at the rate of ₹45 each.

The labours of Missionaries.

Most of the proceeds of all these remarkable efforts of American charity have been distributed through Missionary Agency, and those Missionaries who have shared in them have not therefore needed or received so much from the funds at the disposal of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund as would otherwise have been placed in their hands. The Committee would here acknowledge with gratitude the unwearied devotion to the work of relieving distress which has been shown by Christian Missionaries, some of whom have laid down their lives in the famine field stricken down by disease after ceaseless toil had greatly impaired their health and strength.

Advocacy by the Press.

The advocacy of the *Christian Herald*, New York, and the *Christian Age*, London, have been already acknowledged. Other newspapers in other parts of the world have also lent their influence to the cause and transmitted their collections, namely :—

	₹.
"Halifax Herald," Canada	40,215
"West Australian," Perth	32,776
"South Australian Register," Adelaide	49,972
"Chronicle," South Australia	846
"Advertiser," Adelaide	6,547
"Geraldton Express," West Australia	1,552
"Barrier Miner," Broken Hill	969
"Bangkok Times," Siam	709
"Siam Observer"	953
"Los Angelos Times," California	5,010
"The Tocsin Newspaper," Melbourne	1,126

In India the leading papers printed all advertisements made by the Committees free of charge, and gratuitously published all items of news relating to the Fund in order to keep the public interest alive. The Committee desire to record their keen appreciation of the help thus rendered.

Aid by the Church.

The agency of the Church has naturally been heartily exerted in aid of the suffering. The Bishop of Calcutta made early arrangements for collections in all the churches in his metropolitan diocese. The *Auckland Churches Fund* in New Zealand contributed R19,517. The *Christian Offering* Fund, which was contributed by the congregations of many churches and chapels, has been already referred to. The *Mansion House Fund* must also have benefited by the proceeds of many a church offertory. From far distant Seoul in Corea the congregation of the American Mission Church sent R223 with a kindly letter. The Grace Presbyterian Sabbath School of New York in America remitted 41 dollars through Lady Curzon, and in South Australia the *Children's Sunbeam Society* got together £54, "chiefly from their own pocket money, or as the result of some act of self-denial."

By the Stage.

The amateur stage also joined in the work. Sir C. C. Stevens, K.C.S.I., in London, the *Young Ladies' Khaki Contingents* of Wellington, and of Danevirke, New Zealand, and Mrs. D. King of Calcutta organised dramatic entertainments which produced very handsome sums for the Fund. The *Calcutta Amateur Dramatic Society* also contributed R450, and the First Battalion, South-West Borderers, R457. The Viceroy's Band gave a concert which brought us R1,006. In addition to contributions from amateurs, the Fund received R527, being half of the profits of two performances in Calcutta by the *Janet Waldorf Theatrical Company*, composed of American professionals touring in India. To the ladies and gentlemen who organised and took part in these performances with such successful results the Committee tender their best thanks.

Contributions in kind.

Besides contributions in money, the Committee most thankfully received various gifts in kind which were found most useful, especially preparations such as Mellin's Food, Condensed Milk, Milk Food, and Cornflour. The gifts of this description were—

From Mellin's Food Company, 300 doz. bottles Mellin's Food.
" the Bernese Alps Milk Company, 10 cases Sterilised Condensed Milk.
" " " " " 1 case Milk Food.
" Messrs. Brown and Polson, 15 cases Cornflour.
" Basel Mission, Cannanore, 500 lbs. Arrowroot prepared by their own Mission people.
" R. Ziegler, Esq., Jhalakati, E. Bengal, 102 bags of rice.
" Messrs. Barraclough and Sons, Halifax, England, one bale woollen goods.
" Mrs. Hauser of Delaware, U. S. A., 20 packages clothing.
" T. H. Dodd, Esq., 1 case quinine 100 oz.

Of grain.

The farmers of Australia, too, showed that neither distance nor difference of race or creed limits the claims of humanity, and generously came forward with contributions of their produce in support of the starving. Between May and August 1900 the wheat-growers of Victoria despatched, in small consignments, 804 bags of wheat or flour for distribution by the Central Relief Committee, and a similar contribution of over 2,100 bags has been made by the settlers of New South Wales and delivered in Bombay. The Committee are aware that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company carried part of the wheat free of charge, and tender their hearty thanks to the Company for their generosity. It is possible that the other lines which carried the rest of the wheat and the contributions in kind also charged no freight, but the Committee have no certain information on the point, and cannot therefore make any specific acknowledgments.

Of vegetable seeds.

In January 1901 Messrs. D. Landreth & Sons of Philadelphia, the well-known seedsmen, shipped 3,378 lbs. of American radish seeds to the Central Committee, the value being $637. The Pensylvania Railway gave free transport from Philadelphia to New York, and the American and Indian Steamship Line carried it free to Calcutta. This is the second time that this firm has presented seeds to sufferers from famine in India. The gift was divided between Lahore, Jhansi, Bikanir, Jaipur, Kotah, Ulwar, East Rajputana, and Girgaon.

Another instance of the abounding charity which the needs of India has

called forth was the munificent gift of 11,000 maunds of rice by Sir Bir Shamsher Singh, Minister of Nepal, for distribution in Rajputana to those unable to work. The freight charges of this consignment, amounting to over R3,000, were also paid by the Maharaja.

Of clothing.

Besides the above, 27 bales and one cask of clothing were forwarded by the Secretary of State, without any information as to the donors, but the Committee believe that they were, to a large extent, the fruits of an appeal made by Mrs. Hauser, who, both in 1897 and 1900, had by means of newspapers and printed sheets explained the great need felt for clothing that existed among the famine-stricken, and gave simple instructions about making what would be of use. Some of these appeals were copied into Australian papers, and produced many gifts of clothing from the Colonies there. The Committee are most grateful for this assistance.

The warmest thanks of the Committee are also due to the Eastern Extension Telegraphic Company, who generously delivered without charge all telegraphic messages of thanks to Australasia and the far East. Messages to Europe and America were similarly sent free of cost. Some of the Banks also remitted contributions from foreign countries without charging any commission.

The total receipts of the Fund.

Thus in many ways and in widely separated lands have money and gifts been collected for the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, totalling R1,53,88,773. The sum received by the Fund of 1897 came to R1,67,17,000, but in making a comparison between the two years it is necessary to remember that foreign contributions in 1897 were remitted to India at a lower rate of exchange than in 1900. The loss to the Fund by exchange has thus been about R7,00,000.

In addition to the amounts actually subscribed in 1900 and 1901, the Committee received a large sum left over from the Famine Fund of 1897. When the accounts of that Fund were closed, a balance remained of R9,63,819, which was invested in Indian Government Securities. The old Committee being dissolved, this Fund was vested in a Standing Committee with the Chief Justice of Bengal as Chairman. The rules laid down for the disposal of the Fund provided that, with the consent of the Government of India, it might be used, wholly or in part, in the alleviation of distress through famine arising in any part of India. Accordingly the following grants were made before the Fund of 1900 was started, and have been included in the accounts of the Fund of 1900, *viz.*:—

			R
November	29th,	1899, for Ajmer	5,000
December	22nd,	„ „ Bhils in Mewar	3,500
January	8th,	1900, „ Central Provinces	50,000
„	16th	„ „ Poor-house at Abu, Rajputana	1,500
„	„	„ „ Berar	10,000
February	1st,	„ „ Punjab	25,000

First meeting of the Central Executive Committee, Calcutta.

On February 19th the Standing Committee dissolved after transferring the balance of the Fund then remaining in their hands to the Central Executive Committee, which had come into existence on that day. The new Executive Committee held in all sixteen meetings up to the 31st August 1901. At their first meeting on February 21st, 1900, it was decided, among other business, that the Government of India should be asked to renew certain concessions granted in 1897, *viz.*, that the Fund money should be remitted by Government without commission, that printing should be done for the Committee at the Government Press free of charge, and that a grant of R1,500 a month should be given to meet the cost of establishment and office expenses. These privileges were accordingly renewed by Government. Atthe same time, preliminary grants were made of R50,000 to Bombay, R25,000 to the Punjab, R20,000 to Ajmer and Mewar, R10,000 to Baluchistan, and R1,25,000 to Rajputana. The question of canvassing was also discussed, and the action taken by the Honorary Secretary in consequence of the discussion was to send circulars to all regiments and batteries in India and to the principal European residents in Calcutta. Subscription books were prepared and issued to mercantile firms, members of the Trades Association, and all public offices, clubs, and educational institutions in Calcutta. Thus Calcutta was canvassed by the Executive Committee, and the Province of Lower Bengal was left to be worked by the Provincial Committee.

The election of Provincial Committees affiliated to the Calcutta Executive Committee was quickly accomplished, the Chairmen and Honorary Secretary of each being the following :— The Provincial Committees.

	Chairman.	Honorary Secretary.
Bengal	Honourable Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.I.E.	D. J. Macpherson, Esq., C.I.E.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	Honourable Sir Arthur Strachey, Kt.	B. Lindsay, Esq.
Punjab	D. P. Masson, Esq., C.I.E.	E. B. Francis, Esq. M. L. Waring, Esq.
Madras	Honourable Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot.	H. K. Beauchamp, Esq. Honourable P. R. Muddeliar.
Burma	H. H. Sir Frederick Fryer, K.C.S.I.	W. J. Keith, Esq., M.A.
Central India	Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I.	Lieutenant C. E. Luard.
Mysore	.....	H. J. Bhabha, Esq., (Treasurer).
Sind	G. C. Whitworth, Esq.	Motiram S. Advani, Esq.
Rajputana	A. L. P. Tucker, Esq.	M. Damodar Lal, Esq.
Central Provinces	Stanley Ismay, Esq.	Honourable Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, C.I.E. V. R. Pandit, Esq.
Bombay	Honourable Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Kt.	N. S. Glazebrook, Esq.
Berar	J. A. Crawford, Esq.	Rao Bahadur Bandhaji. Janardhan Chaobal, Esq. Rao Bahadur R. N. Mudholkar, Esq.
Hyderabad	A. J. Dunlop, Esq.	G. R. Kale, Esq., B.A.
Baroda	Captain H. G. Carnegy, I.S.C.	Pranjiwand Parbhudas, Esq. (Treasurer).

Subscriptions to the Fund soon began to pour in, and its progress month by month is shown below :— Monthly progress by the Fund.

	R	a.	p.
1900, February 28th	10,58,627	3	10
„ March 31st	27,74,769	7	1
„ April 30th	46,75,744	0	9
„ May 31st	88,28,857	6	2
„ June 30th	1,11,05,144	11	7
„ July 31st	1,23,10,494	0	7
„ August 31st	1,32,19,290	15	1
„ September 30th	1,37,20,509	2	10
„ October 31st	1,39,60,258	5	8
„ November 30th	1,42,23,767	14	1
„ December 31st	1,42,86,954	13	4
1901, January 31st	1,45,01,327	8	9
„ February 28th	1,45,09,013	9	3
„ March 31st	1,45,54,163	1	7
„ April 30th	1,45,74,629	14	3
„ May 31st	1,45,98,934	6	4
„ June 30th	1,46,04,451	13	0
„ July 31st	1,46,06,044	15	1

The question of apportioning receipts among the several distressed provinces came up for discussion at the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee on March 27th, when memoranda on the subject by Mr. T. W. Holderness, Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, by the Honourable Mr. D. Smeaton, the Honorary Secretary, and the Hon'ble Rai First important distribution.

Bahadur B. K. Bose, Member for the Central Provinces in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, were considered, and the first large distribution was made as follows :—

In British India.	₹
To Bombay	7,25,000
„ Punjab	2,25,000
„ Central Provinces	7,00,000
„ Berar	1,25,000
„ Ajmer and Mewar	75,000

In Native States.	₹
To Rajputana	4,00,000
„ Central India	1,00,000
„ Baroda	25,000
„ Bombay	1,50,000
„ Hyderabad	25,000
„ Punjab	25,000
„ Central Provinces	25,000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED ₹	26,00,000 = £173,333

Honourable Mr. Smeaton deputed to visit the distressed Provinces.

This was the last meeting in 1900, which it was possible for all members of the Executive Committee to attend, for the residence of many of them in Calcutta came to an end when, at the close of March, the Government of India removed to Simla. Among these was the Honourable Mr. D. Smeaton, who would ordinarily have returned at once to his own province, Burma, which he represented in the Legislative Council. The Government of India were, however, pleased to agree to his temporary deputation to visit the provinces which were chiefly affected by famine, in order to confer with the Provincial Committees there and report to the Executive Committee regarding the comparative needs of each. Having handed over the Honorary Secretaryship to Mr. A. F. Cox, Mr. Smeaton, visited, during the first three weeks of April, the Central Provinces, Bombay and Guzerat, Rajputana, the Punjab, and Central India, and forwarded to Calcutta notes regarding their condition and his recommendations. He found distress to be most acute in the Bombay Presidency and also extreme in the Central Provinces.

Grants for Native States.

The Committee at first made separate grants for British and Native State territory in Bombay, the Punjab, and the Central Provinces, but after a time it was found more convenient to leave the distribution in the hands of the Provincial Committees. The principle that Native States were equally entitled with British territory to share in the Fund has been recognised throughout, but some difficulty has been experienced in giving effect to it chiefly owing to the fact that in some Native States a reliable agency for distributing the charity has been somewhat wanting.

Of ₹1,52,00,000 distributed from the Fund of 1897 nearly 75 per cent. was spent in giving a fresh start in life to those who had lost their all in the struggle with famine. The subjects of this form of relief include weavers and other artisans, but are mainly agriculturists who require cattle and seed grain to enable them to cultivate their lands when the rainy season has begun. The Committee recognised the necessity for making timely provision for such cases and therefore passed on to the provinces as quickly as possible the funds which came into their hands, retaining at each distribution a reserve of only a few lakhs. Up to June 18th, when the south-west monsoon rains were due to arrive, the allotments made had amounted to the following sums :—

Allotments up to June 18th, 1900.

In British India.	
Bombay	28,00,000
Punjab	9,80,000
Central Provinces	20,00,000
Berar	5,65,000
Ajmer and Mewar	2,25,000
N.-W. Provinces and Oudh	25,000
Beluchistan	10,000

In Native States.

Rajputana	12,00,000
Central India	6,65,000
Baroda	1,30,000
Bombay	7,15,000
Hyderabad	1,30,000
Punjab	1,30,000
Central Provinces	1,30,000
TOTAL R	97,05,000 = £647,000

Subsequent allotments were made by the Committee as follows :— Late allotments.

			R
During July	1900		18,60,000
„ August	„		10,00,000
„ September	„		8,25,000
„ July to September	„	{earmarked allotments}	4,416
„ October to November	„		11,000
„ January	1901		8,00,000
„ March to May	„		1,03,438
„ June	„		4,00,000
„ July	„		50,000
TOTAL R			50,53,854 = £336,923

Details of how these sums were divided among the various Provinces and Native States will be found in the Appendix F.

During the time that these sums were being distributed some discussion took place with the Punjab Committee on the subject of making loans instead of free gifts from the Fund. The Commissioner of Delhi, in whose division the most distressed portions of the Punjab lay, urged strongly that free gifts for any purpose under Object IV (see page 6) only tended to pauperise and demoralise the people. The Punjab Committee accepted his views, and resolved that recipients of such relief should be encouraged to repay as soon as they were in a position to do so. The same question had arisen in 1897, when the Executive Committee decided that those whose credit was good enough to enable them to borrow were not fit objects for the Fund's charity, and that all relief should take the form of free gifts. This decision was adhered to by the Committee of 1900 and was eventually accepted by the Punjab. Question of loans or free gifts.

Another matter that was debated with the Punjab Committee originated with the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, who suggested that cattle, instead of being given away to any single cultivator, should be entrusted to some reliable villager for the purpose of being lent to several cultivators in succession, thus spreading the benefit over a larger area. It was considered that the idea, though theoretically excellent, was beset with many difficulties and the decision finally arrived at was that it should be tried where reasonable prospects of success existed. Of lending instead of giving cattle.

As large sums continued to be received rather late in the cultivating season the Committee realised that distributing officers, who, as a rule, were simultaneously engaged in giving repayable loans from Government, would find it difficult to decide at once what persons were most deserving of gratuitous help from the Famine Fund. They, therefore, suggested to all Provincial Committees the wisdom of adopting a system which had been followed in some districts during the famine of 1897, by which no distinction was at first made between gifts from the Fund and loans from Government. This made it easier to carry out the Government programme of relief by loans, but the disadvantage lay in the risk that the people might not fully realise how largely they were being helped by charity from all parts of the world, and not only by Government. To minimise the risk it was decided that whenever it was possible to announce at the time of payment that the money was a free gift the announcement should be made, and where it was impossible to do this that it should be explained that certain loans would be converted into free gifts from the Charitable Fund as soon as it could be decided who were the most needy. Of distinguishing between charitable gifts from the Fund and loans from Government.

Anxiety regarding the rains of 1900.

The rains which should have visited India by the middle of June did not put in an appearance when they were expected. A moderate delay in their arrival was not an unmixed evil, from the point of view of the administrators of the Fund, for it gave more time to pour into the provinces the money which was being daily received from abroad for the purchase of cattle and seed. *Bajri* can be sown until the end of July and *Jawari* and cotton till the end of August.

The deepening apprehensions caused by the delay in the establishment of the monsoon, the apparent weakness of the current and its failure to penetrate into the interior of the country, were partially relieved by a fairly heavy and general burst of rain in the middle of July about the same period that the number of persons in receipt of State relief reached its maximum of 6,300,000 souls. This rainfall was just in time to save the withering seedlings in the Central Provinces and Berar; it permitted the commencement of sowing operations over the greater part of Central India and Rajputana and proved very beneficial to the standing crops of the Bombay Deccan and Hyderabad, but it did not extend to the hard stricken northern districts of the Bombay Presidency nor to the Punjab. It was even reported that cattle bought by the Bombay Relief Committee were beginning to die for want of fodder and water. In the succeeding fortnight the rain was lighter and scattered: the monsoon on the Bombay side fell off and gave little moisture except in the extreme south and along the coast.

At the end of July the situation was hence again one of grave anxiety owing to the prolonged break, and in the tracts, comprising Guzerat, Baroda, Western Rajputana and South-West Punjab, which had been denied a share in the rainfall of the earlier half of the month, it had become extremely critical. No crops had been sown in these large areas, prices remained at famine pitch, distress continued unabated and fodder being unobtainable, cattle mortality increased. In Guzerat, lying in the north of the Bombay Presidency, one-fourth of the whole population was at this time in receipt of State relief, and the total for all India remained above 6 millions.

Such was the position when the latest month (August) for the sowing of autumn cereals arrived, and there seemed every possibility of a failure of crops almost as extensive and disastrous as that of 1899. For the second time, however, the situation was retrieved by a sudden opportune advance of the monsoon. This set in on the 30th of July, between which date and the 4th August steady rain, varying in amount from 1 to 7 inches in the 24 hours, fell over the Bombay Presidency and extended in smaller amounts over Central and North-West India. During the rest of the month normal monsoon conditions prevailed generally, and there were further heavy falls in the tracts which had hitherto been rainless. Agricultural operations were at once prosecuted with great activity and vigour, as far as the scarcity of plough cattle permitted, and the acute conditions previously existing began to abate. Although prices continued high and no material reduction could be hoped for until after the harvest, there was a large and increasing demand for field labour, the people were put in good heart, and the serious difficulties arising out of the scarcity of water and pasture were removed. At the end of August the number on Government relief showed a sensible decline, having fallen to 4,300,000.

The rains of September were very unevenly distributed. In the Northern, Eastern and Central Provinces they proved excessive towards the end of the month, while in the south they were light and somewhat insufficient. But excepting in parts of the Bombay Deccan the improvement in the agricultural outlook was maintained and the heavy rainfall in the north and east was of advantage to the preparation of the land for *rabi* or winter sowings. With a ripening autumn harvest, which promised well except in a few limited localities, prices at length began to give way and the rapid subsidence of famine conditions was evidenced by a drop in the number on relief to 2,700,000 persons at the close of the month.

October was marked by an almost total absence of rain in the Bombay Presidency, Baroda and the south of the Nizam's Territory which seriously impeded and delayed *rabi* sowings; elsewhere prospects continued good. Famine relief by Government ceased during this or the succeeding month in Berar, Punjab, Ajmer, Rajputana, Central India and the Native States of the Central

Provinces, and the total number of persons on relief was reduced to a little over a million, the majority of whom belonged to the Central Provinces and Bombay.

The end of December saw Government relief operations brought to a termination in the Central Provinces, and thereafter they were confined to the tracts in the Bombay Presidency, its Native States, and Baroda and Hyderabad, in which, as already noted, the rainfall had proved inadequate, and crops had either been left unsown or failed to reach maturity. On December 1st, the number in receipt of State relief in these tracts was 283,000, and two months later it fell to 215,000.

Continued distress in parts of Bombay.

While it remained still uncertain over how wide an area distress would continue for a second season, the Central Committee refrained from making any distribution of the Funds which were collecting in their hands. In January 1901, however, they felt justified in assuming that charitable relief need be continued only in the Bombay Presidency, and accordingly made a grant of ₹8,00,000 to that Committee and again ₹4,00,000 in June and ₹50,000 in July. No further grant has been made up to the time of issuing this report, and a balance of ₹,3,89,076 was on 31st July 1901, at the credit of the Fund, partly contributed to by refunds from various provinces in which distress had ceased before the whole of the grants made to them had been expended. This balance is less than that which had been received from the Fund of 1897, so that the whole of the sums actually contributed towards the relief of the late famine have been or are being spent on that object, and if necessary Bombay can be helped out of the surplus of 1897. What may remain will be handed over to the trustees of the *Indian Peoples Famine Trust* which is referred to at page 9 of this report.

Povincial Committee's reports.

The reports received by the Central Committee from the various Provincial Committees will be found printed at pages 88-325, and at pages 24-40 some extracts from the more interesting communications forwarded by individual workers in the famine field. The Committee would gladly have published further information of the latter kind, and have sought for it, but their requests for descriptive accounts of charitable relief work and of incidents connected with it have not been very successful. From the extracts that are given, however, subscribers will be able to form some idea of how their charity has been administered, and with what feelings it has been received.

The expenditure accounted for up to February 28th 1901, is shown distributed under various heads in the different Provinces in Appendix I, pages 82 and 83. Up to that date there had been spent under:—

	₹
Object I (Special comforts, etc.)	13,94,688
Object II (Orphans)	2,32,353
Object III (Secluded women, etc.)	5,35,219
Object IV (Seed grain and plough cattle)	1,11,90,500

Orphans.

As in 1897, so also in 1900 the bulk of the money has been spent under object IV. The entry given against object II must not be taken as fully representing the amounts that will be spent on that form of relief. While general distress continued, orphans were supported together with other indigent persons, but usually in separate establishments attached to poor-houses. When happier times arrived many were claimed by relatives or were adopted by people of their own class. Finally a residuum of these little waifs was left, and chiefly in Rajputana, and they have been handed over to orphanages established in some cases by Hindu or Mohammedan Committees, but generally by Christian Missionaries. In Rajputana the Central Committee has since February paid ₹80,000 to the Agent to the Governor General, and in the Central Provinces ₹20,000 to the Chief Commissioner, on their undertaking to make suitable arrangements for the maintenance of orphans. In Bombay more than a lakh has, since the same date, been granted by the Provincial Committee to Missionaries and others for the same object. The unspent balances remaining with Provincial Committees will probably be largely used in providing for orphans. Missionaries have received large sums for this special purpose from England and America and as persons of all creeds have contributed to the Famine Fund, its administrators have felt constrained to avoid action which might give colour to any suggestion of proselytism.

The cost of administration, including clerical labour, Stationery, Postage and

telegrams has, in the Provinces amounted to less than R23,000. In the Central Office, Calcutta, the whole of the office expenditure has been covered by the Government Grant referred to at page 10. To the Fund, therefore, the cost of administration may be fairly said to have been effected with the greatest economy.

Audit of the Accounts.

The accounts of the Central Committee, Calcutta, were audited by Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, professional Auditors of that city. For those of Provincial and District Committees the procedure of 1897 was followed and Local Governments consented to appoint officers, generally of the Deputy Collector class, to examine and review the whole of the expenditure incurred within their jurisdictions. The ordinary pay and allowances of these auditors were borne by the State, the Famine Fund adding R100 a month, in consideration of the nature of the special duty. The auditors travelled through all the districts in which charitable relief had been administered and ascertained whether District Committees had kept proper accounts of outlay and statistics of the persons relieved. The production of impossible vouchers has not been insisted upon, and allowance has been made for that diversity of procedure which must be expected where relief is largely administered by a non-official and unpaid agency. The Central Committee are persuaded that their instructions have been carefully complied with in all British Provinces. In some of the Native States and even in some cases occurring in British territory, the records of expenditure may not have been kept in so business-like a fashion as might be desired, but on the whole, there is every reason to believe that the Fund receipts have actually reached those for the relief of whom they were intended, though it is perhaps too much to expect in a country like India that a small portion has not been misappropriated or misapplied.

The Committee's acknowledgments of assistance.

The Central Committee desire to acknowledge most gratefully the hearty way in which all Provincial Committees have co-operated with them in the anxious and responsible work of directing the operations of the Fund. The main burden of correspondence and direction has naturally fallen upon the Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries, all of them gentlemen whose official or professional duties left little leisure for other occupation, but this leisure had been cheerfully employed in the service of the suffering. The self-denying labours of missionary workers in the famine field itself has already been referred to: their aid has been invaluable, as well as that of all district Government officials, and some non-official lay workers, all of whom have been unsparing in their efforts to administer the charity to the best advantage. Those who have laboured in the midst of the sufferers have had their reward in seeing more directly than others could the immense good that has been done, and noting the gratitude which has been evoked.

The best thanks of the Committee are also due to many who, though not resident in India, have shown their sympathy, by creating and maintaining an interest in the cause which has yielded such magnificent results.

The parts taken by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Alfred Newton (who was throughout zealously assisted by Mr. W. S. Soulsby, C.B., Secretary of the Mansion House Fund), by Lord Scarsdale, and by Lord Radstock have been already referred to. The Committee desire here to acknowledge the splendid assistance rendered by the Lord Mayors or Provosts of Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin; the Earl of Derby, the President, and Sir Frank Forbes Adam, the Chairman, of the Lancashire County Fund; the Mayor of Southport, the City Chamberlain of Paisley, the Chairman of the Birkdale Urban Council, the Town Clerk of Little Hulton (Bolton) and many others who followed their example in the United Kingdom. In the various British Colonies they are deeply indebted to the following gentlemen for help rendered to the cause. In Australasia to the Mayors of Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Wellington, Napier, Palmerston North, Wanganui, Christchurch, Feilding, New Plymouth, Launceston and Hobart; to Professor Anderson Stuart and Mr. R. M. McC. Anderson, Joint Secretaries of the New South Wales Fund: to Mr. F. B. Schoobridge, Honorary Secretary of the South Australian Fund; to Mr. J. Clayton, Honorary Secretary of the Victoria Fund; to Mr. G. L. Denniston of Dunedin, Mr. F. Shaw of Wellington, Mr. G. Fowlds of Auckland; to Messrs. W. Young, G. Featherstone and R. Gilmour, all of Invercargil; to Mr. R. Beckett of

Rangitikei; Mr. C. E. Belringer of New Plymouth and to the Borough Council of Gisborne. In Ceylon to Mr. S. M. Burrows, Director of Public Instruction. In Singapore to Messrs. G. W. Butt and E. M. Merewether. In Mauritius to the Members of the Chamber of Agriculture. In Canada to Mr. H. L. Steven of Hamilton, Ontario, and Mr. J. Pope of London. In South Africa to the Mayor of Durban, to Mr. M. K. Gandhi, a native of India and to Mr. L. H. Mason, the Protector of Indian immigrants. In America to Mr. William E. Dodge, who has previously been referred to, and Messrs. C. C. Bonney, E. B. Sherman, E. G. Keith, Ernest A. Bell of Chicago; to Messrs. Drexel & Co. of Philadelphia and to the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angelos.

The Central Committee also offer their respectful acknowledgments to His Excellency the Viceroy and to the Government of India for the earnest and uniform support and the pecuniary and valuable assistance which has been rendered to them throughout. They are unfortunately conscious that in consequence of their imperfect information the names they have mentioned do not constitute a complete record of all those to whom their special acknowledgments ought to be made, and they must consequently content themselves with generally offering their warmest thanks to all those whose labours and munificent subscriptions have enabled them to afford help to many thousands of suffering and patient men, women and children in India who but for that help must, in some cases, have perished in spite of the utmost endeavours of Government, and in all cases would have been utterly ruined by the calamity which had overtaken them. On behalf of these distressed millions of people, the most earnest and grateful thanks of the Committee are tendered to those who in all parts of the civilized world collected and subscribed the munificent sum of upwards of one million sterling.

FRANCIS W. MACLEAN,
Chairman.

CALCUTTA:
The 31st August 1901.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS AND REPORTS DESCRIPTIVE OF THE FAMINE.

Famine in the Great Sind Desert.

Every inhabited village had some goats and camels. I estimate that the people have only lost about half of their goats and camels. It was difficult to ascertain the truth about camels, as they are more scattered and go further afield to graze than goats, but they were everywhere to be seen in fair numbers, though in poor condition. Their condition should, however, improve now that the *kumbat* trees, which grow almost everywhere in the desert and are their favourite food, are coming into leaf. The goats of course give very little milk, but I found milk in many houses and saw surprisingly few emaciated children. But on the other hand only those stay at their homes who have not yet come to the end of their resources. One rather curious thing I noticed was that many people who were in good health and condition, and had plenty of grain in their houses were eating bark-bread, or *choda* as they call it, and even on relief works, where the wages were enough to purchase more than full rations of grain, many people persisted in eating this bark-bread. It is made by mixing *bairi* flour with the bark either of the *kunda* or *talhi* tree, and in about equal proportions I should say, though of course the people always told me there was less flour than bark. Bread was also being made by mixing dried *kunda* leaves with flour, but this was less common. And nearly every one was drinking *rab* which is a gruel made by boiling flour in water. As the use of this bark-bread seems to be responsible for an unusual amount of diarrhœa and dysentery I have sent samples of it and of the bark itself to the Chemical Analyser for his opinion on its value (or the reverse) as food.

There are absolutely no cows, bullocks or buffaloes left in the desert, but it is estimated that there may be 10 per cent. of the original stock grazing in the Nara Valley and Baroda State. These, however, almost all belong to the professional cattle-breeders and traders, and not to the cultivators, for whom the outlook is therefore appalling; though there is some slight comfort in the fact that camels are used in the desert for ploughing almost as much as bullocks.

The condition of the people in Ahmedabad.

(1) Those who have been any time on relief seem to be for the most part in good condition, and so are their children when kept and fed in the kitchens. But there appears to be a class of people who for some reason or other avoid the works, and whose children come or are sent to the town to beg or to fend for themselves. Any morning you may see crowds of these children, often mere skeletons, hungrily sifting the dirt and dust of the road in the hope of finding stray grains here and there. This morning I noticed a big boy, after carefully watching his opportunity, swoop down like a hawk on a piece of rind on which to the ordinary eye no scent of food was visible. It is from such children largely that we fill our orphanage, but, on the other hand, often the worst cases are those who have parents, and who prefer starving slowly to death at home to accepting even a temporary home in the poor-house. From my experience with similarly emaciated children in our orphanage I fear that a large number of these children must be dying. The husks with which they perhaps to some extent succeeded in staying the cravings of hunger have rendered it gradually impossible for their systems to assimilate any food whatsoever, and even with the geatest care and attention they die. What must it be then when to their last hour almost they are taking their food from among the refuse of the road? In this connection I may say that I have reason to believe that a very large majority of the children, including those now safely housed in poor-houses, kitchens, orphanages, have been, for some time before their admission, in the habit of eating actual earth not in the way in which infants in this country acquire the habit of clay-eating, as babies at home will occasionally eat coal, etc., but that big boys will, for want of food, fill their stomachs with earth rather than endure the feeling of emptiness. Boys have even to be

watched to prevent their taking food among the filth of latrines. This I have myself witnessed.

(2) The difficulty of helping the people is often enhanced by their strangely suspicious attitude towards efforts to help them, whether Government or private. Yesterday just outside a village some distance from here I came across a pathetic group—a mother lying ill, apparently dying. Her eldest boy, of perhaps eleven, had prepared some mess of, who knows, what, and an infant brother was crying beside him of hunger. A little sister of six or seven was away at a distance, looking for a stray berry or two, or as likely as not, rummaging for food in the village dirt heap. I found they were on their way not to Parantij but from it, and the reason was that the woman felt she was dying and, in spite of the blank prospect of starvation for herself and her children, she preferred to return to her village and die under her mother's roof. I urged her as much as I could to return to Parantij, where she and her children would get food and help, but she persistently refused, saying she did not want to be killed by the doctors! Some of the village people, coming round, added their persuasions to mine, but we could do nothing, and as the headman was unwilling to take the responsibility of sending her to the poor-house against her will, we had to leave her there, with a few annas to keep off starvation a little longer.

(3) My own experience in relief work has been largely in connection with orphan and deserted children, a large number of whom we have taken in. It has been sad to find how often such help comes too late, and many children, after being kept alive by careful nursing for weeks, have disappointed our hopes by falling victims to their previous privations at the last. I remember one particularly sad case. A little boy was found by a good-natured woman and brought to us. He gradually picked up. Presently his father turned up to make an honest penny out of the boy, but as his efforts in that direction proved unsuccessful, he departed leaving the boy in our care and returned after some time with three more of his boys to entrust to us. He himself seemed to prefer starvation to work, for the relief camp is just next door. He returned once or twice to beg and finally, as food was being got ready for him, he lay down and died. Two of his boys, naturally strong and well built, soon followed him to the grave. They had been brought too late within reach of wholesome food and nursing.

The worst of it is that many who might have a chance of life throw it away at the critical moment. These children have an extraordinary aversion to milk diet, and in fact just such food as alone can be given to them in their weak state. Consequently when they can endure it no longer they make their escape at night, and next morning may be found picking up filth in the bazaar. After that their doom is sealed. Nothing can save them as a rule.

A contrast to this is the pleasant picture afforded by the boys who have recovered, and whose plump figures and merry laugh and extraordinary affection would amply reward ten times the trouble that has been spent on them. Yet each and all has a sad story behind. Here is one who came with his two brothers, three gentle nice boys. Now he is left alone. Another was turned out by his own father. Scarcely one but has lost a brother or a sister, and many of them one or both parents besides, since mangoes were last ripe. They are genuine boys, however, and seem able to forget their sorrows in the present happiness of existence, which is a pleasantly varied routine of house work, manual work, school, bathing, games, eating, and sleeping, that leaves little time for moping. Considering the origin of most of them it has been no less astonishing than encouraging to find how quickly they usually learn to pick up habits of truthfulness and honesty and kindness. I think there can be no department of relief work which so quickly brings its own reward.

Famine from a lady's point of view: by a Civilian's wife in Guzerat.

It is only to those living in the midst of famine, like ourselves, who realise what joy a smiling happy face, or a green shoot gives. One sees so few of either.

I visited, in Parantij, some Patidar women, widows, who, I discovered, were in great want; to see their faces confirmed all I had heard of their distress,

their hollow-eyed, shrunken visages proclaimed them to be slowly dying of starvation. I could hardly believe that these poor skeletons were, less than a year ago, women in the bloom of their youth. I must say they impressed me greatly, more I think than most of the miserable sights one comes across in these cruel times, and I hope my pity, with its monetary aid, will save those I knew of from future suffering.

Somehow, those who suffer so for their *izzat* *, cannot but, to a certain extent, command our respect; their principles may be perverted, but they risk their very existence to live up to them. To-day, one Brahmin widow whom I clothed, and to whom I gave enough money to keep her till the end of the famine, haunts me now, with her refined patient face and her emaciated form. She was dying for her *izzat!*

As to the green—one used, at the beginning of the famine, to see tiny plots of ground watered by hand, women bringing *matkas* full of water on their heads from a distant well, and so keeping the crop alive. Now that is a thing of the past. Those lucky ones who have wells and cattle have sown crops, and have nice fields, but they are very, very few and far between. Most of the land one sees is a great weary desert, without a green thing to relieve its terrible, gloomy monotony, as even most of the trees are leafless. I only realised this week how much I missed the green grass and weeds. When going into our new camps, I discovered in the bathroom quite a garden. My little shoots were a joy to me for three days, till I had to leave them.

I wonder whether people in England realise how the famine affects all, Europeans as well as natives, although of course the formers' sufferings are nothing to the latter. We suffer chiefly through the dearness of things and the want of them in districts. For instance, bullock-carts for our baggage are not to be had, so camels do their poor best to supply their places, and this means about twice our former expense, exclusive, of breakages? Our tents used to be little palaces, with clean grass floors; now they are a heap of dirty earth, and our horses—well they manage to live different lives altogether. Butter is not to be got in villages, and milk is so scarce it is considered a luxury, and green vegetables are not even heard of in big towns. Most of our grains (for horses, etc.) have to be carried about with us, and any labour we may want, such as help with pitching tents, although we are willing to pay for it, is not to be had. All provisions are much dearer, and living costs twice as much as before. My horses live on green, instead of dry grass, mostly, as by personally paying each individual I am enabled daily to get enough to feed them. It also supplies a little extra to all who bring it and were we to stay longer in one place it would be a livelihood to many women. People are only too willing to bring the grass, when they see I pay them myself, as, like this, they can earn a lot. In spite of all Government has been and is doing the people are so stupid, they let themselves starve, and one still comes across dreadful cases on roads, and in villages, and corpses by the way side are no longer looked upon with horror. I have seen a great many.

When the famine first commenced we were sent out the first week in August, and have been out ever since we tried to help the people by giving them jobs to do, then fed them as a reward, but gradually when the destitute got more numerous and the words "Go to the works" were not properly understood, we used to feed so many a day, the meals in all now having come up to nearly 7,500. Then when we saw that people could be persuaded to go on works, we fed them and sent them there. Soon people's clothes began to wear out, so I made a plan, which I still find satisfactory, of giving clothes away. I hunt up on works, in poor-houses and villages, those in need of clothes, give them numbered tickets, note their wants and in a day or two give them new clothes, and burn their old ones. I have found this in nearly all cases successful, it prevents them cheating by appearing before me in rags, and by burning their clothes they are in almost all cases unable to sell their new ones. So I have given away some 3,500 cloths, besides those which different people sent me on hearing of my endeavours to help some of the poor around us. Lately I have been seeing to the comforts of the poor-houses and kitchens, but specially of the hospitals on the works and in poor-houses, to which I have given different things, as I saw were needed. Of course, all this costs a great deal more than we out of our income could possibly afford. Anticipating this at the beginning of our

* Self respect.

touring season, I wrote to relations and friends, who have helped and are helping me most liberally.

I always try to get any bad case I hear of or see, helped in some way. Sometimes a note from my husband puts him on the dole, or in the house, or he is given enough to keep him till he can go on the nearest work, or if the case is one which Government cannot help, then my poor funds come in and R55 are ample to keep a man from now till the rains break. We have had several little children, deserted by their parents on the road side, whom we have fed up for few a days and then sent to a poor-house to be taken care of. These poor little things suffer terribly, worse than any one this year, and the baby mortality must be dreadfully high;—so many have died in my presence. One little boy, we had during the cold weather, was so well treated, that at the end of ten days, he began to think I was to obey him—he had to go to the poor-house, or he would have been ordering the *saheb* about;—he began to do so to the servants. Parents have begged me to buy their children, and months ago I could have had scores of ruffians as servants at about R3 per mensem; they would have been too unruly, I feared.

I clothed and pensioned till the end of the famine, 66 old and young *purdah* Mohammedan women in Parantij, and the blessings they showered down on me ought to make us as rich as Crœsus—their blessings all take the form of pice. Why they cling to one's legs I don't know, but I must say the position they put one into is a very *infra dig.* one; fancy a lady struggling to get away with a poor old Mohammedan widow strongly attached to each leg! It is a position in which to be serious is an impossibility, and one's anger ends in laughter, or at least mine always did.

The poor-houses and hospitals present famine on its saddest side, to go into a hospital early in the morning, and nearly fall over the corpses of those who have died in the night, has been often my terrible experience.

The position in Kotah, Rajputana.

As to the condition of the people the general suffering began to become acute last February, so much so, that a large majority of cultivators sold all their trinkets and brass cooking vessels, as well as their ploughshares and other implements of husbandry, in order to maintain themselves and their families. It is believed that not many plough bullocks have been sold, as but a few purchasers were to be found, but many have died of starvation and want of water.

The people of this State have had no previous experience of famine, and having a rooted aversion to leaving their villages, they have been slow to appreciate the benefits of resorting to the various relief works or poor-houses opened for their benefit in different parts of the State. The result has been that although the bulk of the population have somehow managed to eke out a precarious existence sufficient to keep body and soul together, they have done little more, and their physical condition is therefore deplorable. In their present state they are quite unable to resume agricultural operations when the rains set in, and large advances for food grains will have to be given to enable them to gain sufficient strength to attend to the ploughing, etc., of their fields. In addition to this, advances will have to be made to purchase the necessary agricultural implements which, calculated at the low rate of R5 per cultivator, will amount to a very large sum in a State the population of which numbers 719,061 souls. No account is here taken of the plough bullocks which in many instances will also be required.

It may at first sight appear that distress cannot have been very general as the people have hesitated to avail themselves of the various forms of relief open to them; but a short tour through the Kotah State would soon dispel such a notion. It is impossible to go along any road without coming across dead bodies and persons in the last stage of exhaustion. Along the road sides and in the jungles it is a common sight to see trees stripped of their bark from top to bottom. The bark of the silk cotton tree seems to be most appreciated as an article of the diet. Other trees, such as palms, have been cut down wholesale and their hearts scooped out for food. All kinds of stalks, roots, herbs and even leaves of trees are utilized as food, and I have seen a man myself eating

the leaves of a tamarind tree 100 yards from a poor-house where he could have obtained a square meal for the asking.

The apathy and helplessness of the people is quite extraordinary. They can scarcely be induced to do anything to help themselves and they won't lift a finger to help others. I saw two very marked instances of this on one occasion in the early morning while driving down a road in the Kotah Chaoni. On my way to the railway works at Antah I saw an old man of about 70 years of age lying apparently dead, while a little girl of about 7 or 8 years of age was sitting by his side crying and trying to attract the attention of passers-by, of whom there were many. Not a soul took the smallest notice of the little thing. Mr. T and I at once went up to the child to see what could be done. The old man was still breathing, and the little girl, who was his grandchild, told us that he had fallen there some hours before, and the last thing he had called for before he became insensible was water. Since then she had been trying to attract the attention of some one to get her water, but had not succeeded. We attended to the old man, and tried to get him to drink water, but he was too far gone and died while being carried to hospital. The little girl was taken to the Agency and cared for.

On another occasion I saw a poor little blind child, aged about 5, who had been deserted by its mother, sitting in the middle of the road near the Maharao's new palace, quite close to a water-stand calling out "*Pani*,* *Pani*." There were many passers-by, but no one paid the least attention to its cries, although it would have been so easy for any one to draw the child a drink of water from the stand. I had the child also taken to the Agency and attended to.

A third instance of the apathy and insensibility of the people to the troubles of others is related by Mr. T, who, in coming out of the Maharao's new palace, one day saw a small child lying in the verandah in an almost dying condition, while numbers of people passing to and fro paid not the least attention to it. Mr. T. had the child taken to his house, and it is now quite recovered and plump and fat.

Relief is applied in different ways, but the two principal methods are poor-houses and relief works. Poor-houses are established in various parts of the State for persons who are unfit for work. The inmates are given cooked food of a sufficient quantity twice a day and when they get stronger they are made to do some work. The work required of these persons is of a light description, and they are fed in the same manner as in the poor-house, *viz.*, on cooked food, but the quantity is somewhat increased. Relief works are meant for able-bodied men, women and children. These are paid according to the amount of work done, and great care is taken to have them paid daily. These of course cook their own food. All the people on these works look well and strong and quite happy.

The other forms of relief are, making and repairing wells in almost every village. Some of these are made out of the tacavi advances given by the State and others by well-to-do Patels or Bohras. The State also places a certain sum of money each month at the disposal of the *Nazims* who are in charge of the various *Nizamats* or *Tahsils* for the purpose of relieving distress in their respective charges; and in the city of Kotah food is supplied to *pardanashin*† women and others, who for various reasons cannot avail themselves of the ordinary forms of relief. An orphanage is also maintained and is well looked after. Patrols are sent along the roads to pick up any persons found lying about in a state of exhaustion and to despatch them to the nearest poor-house. The State is doing everything in its power to help the sufferers by the famine, but funds are low and outside aid is urgently required to enable timely assistance to be given to cultivators to start afresh when the rains come.

When it is considered that three-fourths of the revenue of the Kotah State is derived from land, it is easy to realise how low its treasury must be and how little prospect of improvement in this respect is to be hoped for. This year at any rate His Highness the Maharao has loyally done his duty by his subjects so far as the means at his disposal would allow. In all India there does not exist a feudatory chief who can excel His Highness in his devoted attachment to the Paramount Power, and it behoves us therefore to afford him so far as lies in our power the assistance he so sorely needs in this time of famine and distress.

* Water. † Secluded.

Incidents in Rajputana.

As illustrating the importance of being able to give relief at the right time I may mention the case of a cultivator whom I met in camp. The poor man was so obviously dejected that I asked him what was the matter. He explained that he had a good field of barley which would be ripe in another fortnight, but that one of his bullocks having broken down from bad feeding he had been obliged to give up watering the crop, and it must all now wither away: he had no good fodder, and no money, nor the means of getting any. I gave him R4 with which he was able to get fodder enough for a fortnight and so to save his crop: R4 at that moment were much more use to him than R200 would have been ten days later. His gratitude, as he said with tears in his eyes "*Ap main par hogya*" (Now I have got through to the other side) was very moving.

The simple honesty of the more unsophisticated villagers is at times touching. I remember out in the desert, where relief works are of necessity few and far between, I was haranguing a Jat cultivator on his stupidity in staying hanging on in his village, where he and his family must eventually starve, instead of going on to a relief work, about 40 miles away, while they were still strong and fit to work. After much arguing he said he could not go because he had no means of feeding himself and his family on the journey. I then gave him money enough for this purpose and he took it promising to start for the works next day. A few minutes afterwards, however, he came up to me again as I was leaving the village and said "I want you to take that money back, Saheb." I naturally asked why. He replied "Well I didn't quite tell you the truth when I said I had no means for the journey. I have five goats; I will take them with me, and we can kill one each day, eat a bit ourselves and sell the balance of the meat. And so I don't think I ought to keep this money." And so I took it back from him and let him save his self respect.

In another similar case another man, also Jat by caste, insisted on giving me back money which he had taken to convey himself and his family to the relief works. His reason was that he and his brother lived together, and that if his brother would not go to the works he could not leave him alone at home. The brother being away that day he could not promise, without consulting him, that they really would go to the works, and if they didn't go he would have taken my money on false pretences. He would not agree to keep the money until he had seen his brother. "No", he said, "perhaps I might not be honest enough to return it if we finally decide to stay at home." All he would promise was that if they made up their minds to go he would come to my camp next day and ask for the money back again. And there I had to leave it. The poor fellow did not come, and I had no time to go back to his village to look after him. But I told the story to his feudal lord, who was much pleased with the man's simplicity and promised to see that his family were kept going.

Method of distribution in Banswara and Pertabgarh.

Far the larger portion of the subscriptions were in both States devoted to the fourth object, and with this I will specially deal. The State is divided into a number of circles of distribution, and one or more members of the Committee are made responsible for each circle. Lists are then made out for each village for the persons deserving charity under this object. These lists are then sent to the Committee, and the members for that circle investigate the different cases and call on the Committee for a certain amount. The Committee then meet the demand to the best of their abilities as the demand is always in excess of the funds at the Committee's disposal. The circle members then select the most deserving cases from their list and to them the money is allotted.

The difficulty now comes in as to how to let the recipient have the money at hand so as to be able to purchase bullocks and seed without delay after the first good fall of rain, and at the same time prevent him purchasing food with it, or yet purchasing bullocks before the rains broke where there was no fodder for them to eat. This was obviated as follows. The money in each village was given in trust in the presence of the future recipients to the *Patel* and four or five leading villagers. It was fully explained to the recipient how much money there was for him, and what it was to be expended on. A list of the amount given in

the village was given to the *Patel* and a duplicate list is kept with the Committee.

During the past fortnight I have been to many villages with a member of the Committee. With us we took the duplicate lists of the amounts allotted to the villages about to be visited. On arrival at a village the recipients would be called and questioned to find out if they thoroughly understood how much was in deposit for them and how it was to be expended. In every case I came across they understood thoroughly. The by-standers too were interested. The *Patel* and those responsible would then be called and made to show the money. Later on, when really good rain has fallen, the oxen bought will also have to be shown and the result of the seed purchased. In this way that money can be expended immediately the ground is fit for the plough. The one defect about it is that some of the money might stick to the palms of the trustees. I am, however, of opinion that the public opinion of the village would be far too strong to allow this, and I think that no fear need be entertained that the full amount will not reach the intended people. The money for the first object has and is being expended on the purchase of blankets and clothes, and also for purchasing additional food such as "*ghee*" and "*goor*" for poor-house inmates.

In Banswara a substantial new poor-house was built at a cost of ₹300. This was urgently required and will, when the famine is over, be sold by auction and the proceeds given to the poor.

With regard to objects 2 and 3, lists are being made out and submitted to the Committee and the money is being allotted to the most deserving.

Application of the Fund in the Hilly Tracts, Mewar.

Up to date I have received ₹2,000 from the Charitable Relief Fund and the money is being expended in the following manner:—

(1) About 25 orphan infants are specially housed, fed and cared for by three Bhil nurses; any abandoned infant or small and sickly child is taken into this nursery and receives particular medical attention.

(2) Sixteen *purdah* women receive food, each is given a ticket signed by myself; on the one side is the woman's name and the ration it draws, on the other the *bania* enters daily the food given and the date. This account is settled monthly.

(3) Clothing has been and is being made and distributed chiefly to women and the sick.

(4) During the late cholera epidemic the fund paid for the wood for burning the dead and for erecting shelters and a hospital.

(5) A small amount of seed grain has been purchased and will be given out as soon as good rains fall. Arrangements have been made as far as possible to see that the grain is actually put in the ground.

(6) At present I have only bought and distributed four pair of plough oxen, but as I understand that more money is available, I shall purchase others. One pair of oxen has been given between two men whose fields adjoin. Each man understands that they share the pair for ploughing, but that one animal is his own property and they agree not to sell it within one year. These cattle are fed free, as are all animals belonging to villagers, in an enclosure built for the purpose. It has been carefully explained to all recipients that the animals and fodder are not given by Government, but are bought with money sent from England by persons who sympathize with the famine-stricken.

(7) During the past six months a poor-house has been supported by the Mewar Durbar, but the money grant being now exhausted, the expenditure will, in future, be charged to the Charitable Relief Fund.

What some of the recipients say.

"If the English had not sent us this money the thread of our lives would have broken."

"These are not rupees that the English have sent us. They are the water of life (Ab-i-haiyat)."

"Such generosity was never shown even by Hatim Tai. We have heard of Hatim* Tai's generosity, but we have tasted that of the Queen and the English."

---

* The proverbially generous King of Persia.

Work in Haraoti and Tonk.

Things have taken a great change for the better here. Rain falls every day now, and, provided it does not stop later on, we are safe now for a good harvest and plentiful grass.

Winding up a famine work is a much pleasanter job than starting it: and with that liberal grant we have had from the Charitable Fund we are able to wind up with a great flourish. At present we are devoting our energies to giving the people "a fresh start in life."

The morning after my arrival Lieutenant H., Special Famine Officer, took me off to see a mass of ragged humanity which he proceeded with great skill to divide off, first into sexes, and then into rows of a hundred each. The women were quite disgracefully clothed with hardly a shred on them. But the reason for this was soon clear. New clothing was to be given out; but those with good petticoats were only to be given *saries*, and those with good *saries* were only to be given petticoats. They were all inmates of the poor-house and they had got wind that a previous batch had been given clothing according to their test, so they all now proceeded to hide their best clothing and came so ragged that it was quite impossible to avoid giving them a complete new outfit. When they were all seated in their rows of a hundred each—584 women and 206 men—coolies appeared carrying huge bundles of clothing at the sight of which all the ladies started singing! The petticoats were all red and the saries some blue, some yellow and besides these were *kachlis* (female chest protectors). Every stitch of the clothing had been manufactured locally under H's orders. H's myrmidons then proceeded with the distribution. Each woman was given what she really needed: and this proved for practically the whole number all their articles of clothing—petticoat, *sari*, and *kachli*. As each received her new dress she had to remove her old clothes which were carried off to be burnt. Gradually, in place of the rows of miserable looking beings, we saw lines of clean handsomely dressed women who, now that they were properly and brightly clothed, looked twice as fat and well as they did before. The transformation was extraordinary.

When they were set up with new dresses they were given a seer of *chupatties* each and four annas, and finally more coolies with basket loads of hoes appeared and gave one to each woman. With this new start in life these poor women—the pick of the poor-houses—were despatched to their homes, and soon after the town and the country side was alive with red and blue and yellow figures.

I forgot to mention that before they left they all came crowding up of their own accord and bowed to the ground to H and me—most thoroughly grateful poor things for what had been done for them.

The men were treated in a similar way being given suitable clothing, one last day's feed, four annas and a hoe.

Both men and women were in good enough condition to work, having most of them lived for several months in the poor-house. They were all persons who *wished* to go back to their homes, and with the hoe they can now quite well earn a living by weeding in the fields or bringing in grass. Later in the day H. took me off to the head quarters of a tahsil about 12 miles out where bullocks and cash were to be distributed to needy cultivators. Lists of such cultivators had been prepared last month. The fortunate ones who had been chosen were seated in a row: the bullocks were herded near by, and, as each man's name was read out, he was made to sign a receipt for his bullocks and was given a *sanad* stating that it was given as a free gift and he was not liable to any charge or repayment on account of it. Having gone through these formalities, the man ran off to catch his bullock, which he generally did by means of the rag which in these countries serves as a hat. When they were all served out with bullocks they were given cash, from R5 to R10, wherewith to purchase seed and were despatched to their homes. These bullocks have been a great success. Lieutenant J., Special Famine Officer, managed to get hold of an excellent lot, and it seems to be the general opinion here that they were worth far more to the State than the actual money which they have cost. Neither the Durbar nor the people had the money to import bullocks themselves, and without the charitable fund grant which has enabled us

to make arrangements on a big scale, several thousands of acres which are now being cultivated would have lain fallow, and a few thousand more of these poor people would have succumbed. I believe, too, that the relief is reaching the right people. H. has taken the greatest pains about this. While he has been here he has managed to organise a very useful staff out of the local officials and Messrs. H. and S. of the Public Works Department assist in the distribution. It has altogether been most gratifying to see so much real help afforded, and I doubt if £10,000 has ever been spent to such good purpose as it has just now in Bundi.

Gratuitous Relief in the Hilly Tracts, Mewar.

Roughly speaking by early November 1899 the famine had begun to make itself plainly felt. Day labourers, hired farm hands, servants and all those who carried on the thousand and one petty occupations by which the wants of others are supplied, had been shown the door by their employers who foresaw that all their resources would be required for the support of themselves and families. These people came pouring into Kherwara in a never ceasing stream. The Bhils who formed at least 95 per cent. of the total number had a simple belief that when they had got to the Sahebs they were quite safe. Many just asked where they were to go and seemed quite injured at the insufficiency of the shelter and food provided.

By hastily passing round the hat we managed to get about four hundred a month promised till the famine was over—a considerable sum when it is remembered that Kherwara is a tiny place, where only the head-quarters and five companies of the Mewar Bhil Corps, a local Irregular Corps, are stationed, but infinitesimal compared to the misery it had to meet. His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur on being applied to generously gave a lump sum of four thousand Udaipuri rupees to assist, and by the aid of these amounts work was begun.

A kitchen was started where it was intended to feed the starving till they were strong enough to go to the relief works, which were being rapidly organized, an intention which, as will be seen further on was, never carried out. We started with about three hundred, but the applications for admittance were so numerous that even admitting only those who were at the last extremity the numbers rose rapidly to five hundred. As quickly as possible an old but spacious *dharmsala*, or rest house, which had a large enclosing wall on three sides and a row of huts on the fourth, was enlarged by building light sheds and walling them in with bamboo matting. Two large iron cauldrons were obtained from the village and twenty sets of grindstones bought. Every morning and evening maize was boiled into a kind of porridge and served out not only to the five hundred occupants of the kitchen but to whoever applied at the gate. It was kindly meant on our part, but it could not continue, as no sooner was the word passed round that free food was being distributed, then every village and *pal* poured out its poor, and they came streaming in from every direction. We were most seriously embarrassed as our funds were very limited, and already the numbers fed were greater than our means justified.

For some time many had to be turned away, and this not only on account of want of power to help, but because we found that as long as there was a chance of free food for which no labour was demanded in return the Bhils would not lift a finger to help themselves. Lovable as Bhils are in many ways their sloth and hatred of work are transcendent; they form the aristocracy of the unutterably lazy. When asked to assist in building the sheds for their own accommodation they thought they were being imposed on, and confidentially told me that if they had had the remotest idea that they were going to be asked to work they would never have come. At last we came to a compromise. They said "all right Bapji (father), take the women and children," and there the matter rested. I took the women and children, got a small modicum of work out of them, while my lord, the Bhil, sat and studied nature in a contemplative way, or went to sleep for twenty hours out of the twenty-four. One thing only that partook of the nature of work would he have anything to say to. He took a most unholy joy in carrying away the bodies of those who died. I was never at a loss for corpse bearers: there were plenty of volunteers.

We found that the porridge diet was not sufficiently sustaining, so forty women were told off to grind corn and twenty to bake unleavened cakes and boil a little pulse and salt. This was for the evening meal; the porridge was still continued in the mornings. Even then the loss of life was very heavy. Dysentery and diarrhœa were almost epidemic, generally setting in ten days after their admission to the kitchen. If they lived through the attack, which was invariably of great severity, they passed rapidly into a healthy state, but large numbers succumbed; privation had so weakened their organs that the food given set up violent irritation, or the pounded wood and bark they had eaten before admission had so scarified their insides that they were in a hopeless state from the beginning.

Just as our funds were getting heavily into debt a welcome gift of three thousand five hundred rupees arrived from the Central Relief Committee at Calcutta. Then we began to expand our relief operations. We took all the children, now numbering some three hundred and fifty, and put them in an old deserted bungalow under a matron with several assistants to help in cooking, put them on a diet of boiled rice sweetened with coarse sugar, appointed a bathing master, and gave them one blanket to every five to lie on at night, and one blanket to cover the same lot. It was a wonderful sight, the groups of five little beady black eyes peering over the edge of the blanket, till the order was given "*Sojao*" (sleep) when every head disappeared.

The doctor visited them every morning and evening, gave them some simple tonic, physicked those who were ill, and saw they were kept clean and regularly fed. The kitchen was also visited twice a day by one or other of us, a very necessary precaution, as the poor people were simply filthy in their habits, and ceaseless attention to sanitation was necessary.

The numbers gradually rose till at one time we were feeding about seventeen hundred. Kind-hearted people began to send us generous gifts, and the Central Relief Fund finding the substantial good we were doing sent us a lot of money.

Still death was very rife. I saw nothing resembling what I had read of in books, where descriptions were given of people suffering from hunger and dying from starvation; nothing whatever. Death was very merciful in every instance I had cognizance of, and they were many hundreds. The poor things got weaker daily, and nearly all died in their sleep, their check pillowed on their hand, a perfectly restful expression on their faces.

But truly hunger is a thing to show people in their true colours: to do justice to the men I must say that nearly always the man was leaner, feebler and nearer death than his wife and children. Often the mother was dying while the child was quite plump; but on the other hand I have seen mothers bolt their own portion of food and then turn and snatch the morsel from their child. Some mothers gave most of their food to their children, while others pilfered from theirs. Some sat and patiently waited till their infant was admitted to the orphanage, and then went to ask admission to the kitchen, while others in their desire to get food dropped their babies and fought and tore their way to the front ranks of those waiting at the gate. Yet taking them all in all they were wonderfully good and patient. Lazy, dirty, and thriftless to the last degree they were, but their misery was great; for not only were they in urgent need of food, but hope no longer existed for them. Their relations scattered or dead, their houses sold bit by bit, their little fields mortgaged, their clothes gone and cattle dead, the future must have looked darker than the present.

Matters went well, taking everything into consideration till May. True we were losing about a hundred a month from famine, diarrhœa and dysentery and another type of the same disease brought on by bad water, but many hundreds were gradually being brought back to health and strength.

Early in May I heard that cholera had broken out in Rokhabnath, and saw it break out in Dungarpur where I happened to be at the time. These two places are 10 and 15 miles respectively from Kherwara. Realizing that we could not escape from the scourge I sent an order to at once utilize some deserted huts on the opposite bank of the river, to erect temporary sheds sufficient to shelter all the poor, and to transfer orphanage, kitchen and poor-house to that site. By working early and late this was done in a few days and the people sent

over. A cholera hospital was built, and cholera medicines were imported in large quantities. Two days after the Medical Officer reported to me that he did not like the looks of the children in the orphanage—there was a strange grey look on their faces. Early the next morning I went with him to the orphanage, and there scattered on the ground were about eighty children in various stages of cholera, and every hour the number increased. Everything was done for the poor little things that could be thought of, but their weakened bodies could not bear the strains : nearly all attacked died. The next day the disease broke out in the village and regimental lines. Then the escorts bringing in grain constantly lost some of their number. My own escort was attacked and two successive Native officers in command died.

Our time was spent physicking the sick, permanganating the wells and arranging for the burial of the dead. For fifteen days and nights this went on ; and to add to our distress dust storms raged continuously, darkening the sky till lamps were necessary at midday and the heat grew fearfully oppressive, the thermometer rising to within a decimal or so of 113 degrees in the shaded hospital verandah. After fifteen days the sickness subsided, and well it did, or no one would have been left to tell the tale; for out of our total population in Kherwara one in every eight contracted cholera, and one out of every 10 died. The loss was most severe amongst the children in the orphanage, they having practically disappeared. During the month of May of those supported by charity 549 died.

Clothes were a source of great trouble for the women were nearly naked, but I found that it was better to keep such clothes as I had, and give them out when the people were going back to their homes, than to distribute them at once, for of some hundred and fifty petticoats and sheets I gave out none remained after a week. Some sold them for snuff, tobacco and chillies ; some afflicted with famine hunger, which no amount of food will appease, sold the new cloths for a handful of grain, and turned up naked but smiling the next day. And some looked on the issue as a good means of setting up an extensive wardrobe. I caught one girl, naked as the day she was born, burying her new clothes and, when asked the meaning of this slightly strange conduct, she said that she hoped by appearing nude at the next issue to get a fresh supply, when she would have two petticoats instead of one.

After the cholera had disappeared the numbers rapidly rose in all the institutions, and soon seventeen hundred were being fed. Rough houses were built for them, and cooking and grinding arrangements extended and improved. The diet included unleavened flour cakes, porridge, chillies, onions, salt and pulse cooked, prepared and distributed by the poor themselves. Sometimes a little meat was added. The children got rice and coarse sugar, cakes and salt, the small infants Mellin's food and various kinds of tinned milk from feeding bottles. The last was for some time the most onerous part of our duties, as the babies had a horrible way of choking violently on the smallest provocation.

Branches of the poor-house and kitchen have been opened at Patiala in Jawas territory, at Para, and at Thana, where free grain and cooked food are distributed to those in dire distress. The Missionaries are doing all they can for the country to the north-east and east. Free grain is distributed to all wanderers, and all sick picked up in the highways and byeways are attended to in the field dispensary.

The above is a rough sketch of what has been done, and it is evident that many thousands of lives have been saved by the charity of English people. Difficulties there were no doubt, but they have been overcome. The greatest was that all grain had to be imported from Cawnpore, five hundred miles by rail and fifty-two by camel or bullock cart, and this only to the central depôt at Kherwara, separate arrangements having to be made for distribution up the distant valley where no roads exist. All grain convoys had to be heavily guarded, or they would have been plundered, and not a Bhil would lift his finger to help in any way.

Now to pass on to better times. The rains, though very late, have at last set in. The poor-house and kitchens are emptying fast, the Bhils are ploughing their fields, some by the aid of bullocks, but these are very few, some by the aid of light hoes which I have distributed, and some by means of light hand ploughs

which I am having made by hundreds as fast as the carpenters and blacksmiths can work. Daily hundreds of Bhils come for seed corn and hand ploughs, and none are sent back empty-handed. I dare not give much seed at a time or the greater portion would be eaten. To each house I give two seers or 4 lbs. of seed, and 8 lbs. of grain to eat, and one plough between two households, and tell them when the seed is sown I will give more to sow and more to eat. Orders have also been sent for ten thousand rupees worth of plough bullocks for distribution.

Many bales of clothing are on their way in and will be distributed on arrival.

The difference between July the first and August the first is extraordinary. In July the country was hideous in its desolation, black rock and baked mud being all that met the eye, with the stumps of trees which had died for want of moisture, people gaunt and worn with suffering, with sad eyes from which hope had died out, tottering painfully in search of water, which was only obtainable in places miles apart. And now! mother Earth has woken from her sleep; the sun is no longer a blazing brazen disc in the sky. Clouds laden with rain are overhead, the rivers are dotted with glittering pools, the wells are filling up, the hills and valleys are green and purple, and my friend, the Bhil, walks about his fields moving his attenuated limbs in quite a jaunty manner. He still makes Mrs. Bhil do most of the work, but that is how he is built, and she is no new woman with fantastic ideas about the rights and wrongs of life. Is not Mr. Bhil her husband? and that includes everything.

With all his faults, and they are neither few nor small, the Bhil is not ungrateful for all that has been done for him. He thinks it right to grab all he can, and looks on it as venial to swear by all the gods (whom he soundly belaboured in the early days of the famine) that you have not given him anything; when two minutes before he started his wife and children home laden with food and seed; but he is grateful and very thankful for kindness and help in his hour of dire distress. Were he sufficiently educated he would refer you for explanation of all his petty laches, such as theft, robbery and a little illicit bow and arrow shooting, to the description given of him by the Bengali student at his B.A. Examination. When asked the question "Who are the Bhils?" he wrote down:—The Bhil is a blacker man, only more hairy. He kills his enemy with a bow and the arrow, and buries him in the ditch. By this you may know the Bhil."

They have not improved much in education or manners since those days, but, whatever they may be, those lazy, good humoured, robbing, faithful tribesmen send you their humble thanks for all you have done.

Some effects of the Famine in Guzerat.

Guzerat now, indeed, once again merits its reputation of "The Garden of India." The whole landscape is as green and smiling as the rich meadows of Somerset and Devon, and the intensely English look of the scenery is accentuated by the red-tiled villages which peep in and out amongst the trees. Even the hideousness of the cactus hedges is half hidden by the vigorous herbage, and no incongruous element mars the bright fresh beauty of the scene. Marvellous is the fertility of this soil when liberally watered. Already the dark green *bajri* stalks are nodding in the breeze, a good six feet high, with the grain in many cases six inches long in the ear. The cotton plants are more backward, but are strong and lusty. The young rice shoots, upon which the eye rests gratefully, attracted by their brilliant virile greenness, are not out of danger yet, and are clamouring for more rain. But even amid this evidence of plenty and prosperity, there are not wanting signs of the ordeal through which the Province has been passing. The proportion of land lying fallow is excessive, and many a good field which should yield its quota of *bajri*, *jowar* or wheat, will feel neither plough nor harrow for the lack of means to till the soil. And now too, when every man and woman should be in the fields, the country seems strangely deserted. The dearth of oxen is still more apparent. At intervals the big Guzerati bullocks are turning a three-inch furrow, or the smaller importations from Central India are dragging the *kurpi* through the growing crops; but there do not appear to be half of the cattle on the land

there would be in normal years. One also looks in vain for any marks of the employment of the light tillage implements Government have been at such pains to press upon the cultivators. Nothing can exceed the prodigality with which when the rains fall in their appointed season, nature in these rich soils cover the bosom laid bare by the months of heat and drought. A single good season suffices to restore, to outward seeming, the land to its former condition of prosperity, but it will be a generation before the unparalled loss of cattle is made good.

The most obtrusive evidence of the famine is the virtual disapearance of the bullock for tractive purposes apart from field labour. The bullock cart is thrust into the lumber shed, there to wait till some part of the awful mortality amongst the cattle can be made good, and its place is taken by the small hand cart drawn by manual labour. It is painful in the extreme to see men, women, and children dragging, like beasts of burden, heavy loads through the miry roads, especially as many of these are cultivators or cattle-breeders, robbed of their means of livelihood through the failure of the rains. Owing to the scarcity of metal, only the main highways in Guzerat are macadamised, and the labour of hauling a truck-load of some twelve Bengal maunds through the loose clinging soil is onerous and exhausting. It is however one of the inevitable accompaniments of a fodder famine on the scale which has obtained in the Province, and it has provided some hundreds of people with the means of gaining a livelihood who would otherwise have been forced on to the relief works. These hand-carts are not, moreover, mere substitutes for a few months, for many a year must elapse before they can be finally put aside. Were it not for this feature, so soon does kindly nature cover up the hideous wounds inflicted by drought, Ahmedabad would yield few signs of the period of storm and stress. The starving immigrants who formerly cumbered the roadside trouble the authorities no more. Beggars there are in plenty, who, in gangs, are periodically hustled off to the poor-house or the relief works, only to slip away the moment discipline is relaxed, and resume their monotonous whine for alms.

It is, however, useless to seek here, in the ancient capital of the Province, a relatively great and wealthy city, for the effects of the famine upon the peasantry. The basis of Indian life is the village, and to the village, consequently, we must go. Fifteen miles north of Ahmedabad is the little wayside station of Sanand. The two and a half miles of road which lead from the station to the mean poor-looking town are a little worse for the purposes of traffic than a track across the open fields, and the unfortunate creatures engaged in transporting the loads of Burma rice, still pouring into the district, have a double task to perform as they drag their little trucks through the spongy ground. From Sanand town a rude path leads to the hamlet of Ghoraj, distant some four miles. *En route* the same characteristics are apparent that are noted from the railway. An extraordinary amount of land lies fallow, the fields are almost deserted, and scarce a bullock is to be seen. Where sown, the crops are *thriving splendidly*, though they are a good deal later here than further south, because of the great delay in the bursting of the monsoon. Both Ghoraj and Ramalgar bear evidences of being substantial and comparatively affluent villages. The houses are strongly and well built, and the appointments of the peasants appear to be good and sufficient. Ghoraj itself is perched on the edge of a considerable tank, now half filled, which commands the rice lands from which the peasants derive their sustenance. Rice is at once the most profitable and the most uncertain crop raised in Guzerat—so profitable, in fact, that rice lands pay from five to six rupees assessment per acre, and dry crop lands pay only one to two rupees. The population of the hamlet a year ago was about 700 souls; the material wealth of the little community included two hundred and fifty plough cattle, three hundred cows, and three hundred buffaloes. The cultivable area of the two villages is three thousand acres, of which some two thousand acres lie waste. Into the reasons for this there is no need to enter, nor were it profitable to inquire whether the Talukdar's method of dealing with his tenants is responsible for so much good land awaiting occupancy.

Such then was the condition of Ghoraj prior to the failure of the rains last year, when it presented all the appearances of a contented, moderately prosperous agricultural community. What were the effects of the drought upon these two

villages? The rice crop completely failed, and the principal source of wealth was dried up. Desperate attempts were made to raise a *rabi* crop of sorts; but these were, for the most part futile too, and the value of the total produce of the villages was not more than one-twelfth of the amount realised in ordinary years. Every one of the three hundred cows has died. Of the three hundred buffaloes formerly possessed, only fifty have been saved. The plough cattle have suffered in a less degree, because naturally greater efforts were put forth to keep alive the animals whose assistance is necessary to the very existence of the Indian ryot, but only a hundred and twenty of the two hundred and fifty were saved. Many of the villagers had to resort to the relief works to carry them over the period of greatest stress. Cholera, fever, and dysentery struck right and left amongst them, and although all who were left alive have now returned to their homes, the population is smaller by a hundred and seventeen than it was at the beginning of the year. No attempt has been made to repair the loss of milch kine, for that is impracticable, but the Durbar purchased twenty oxen and the wealthier cultivators found the means to acquire another ten. With these hundred and fifty head, seed from the Durbar, the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, the American Relief Fund, and from *tacavi* advances, five hundred acres of land, or one-half of the area normally cultivated, have been brought under the plough. If the later rains prove very copious it may be possible to plant another hundred acres with rice. The young plants are kept ready and the land is prepared; but as the village tank is still only half full, it is very doubtful whether the cropped area will be increased.

Ghoraj is typical of hundreds of villages in North Guzerat; if anything, it is a very favourable example, because, I am assured by those who know the district thoroughly, in many villages remote from the towns, houses, deserted during the period of greatest scarcity, have been de-roofed, timbers torn out for fuel, and the unfortunate occupants have returned from the relief works only to find their homes dismantled. Superficially it bears few traces of the awful havoc wrought by the drought. The fields are thick with young corn, the houses have escaped the spoilers, the physical condition of the people is fairly good, and they appear to have a sufficiency of clothes. But the moment you begin to look below the surface, the evil wrought is seen to have sunk deep. The great feature which distinguishes this famine from all which have preceded it is the enormous destruction of cattle which has gone side by side with the failure of the crops—the destruction, in other words, of the capital and much of the material wealth of the cultivating classes—and no parts of India have suffered more severely than Guzerat and Marwar. For this reason the great drought of 1899 has cut more severely into those two provinces than any previous visitation. A crop failure such as that of 1896-97 caused widespread distress and much loss of life; and when, after the advent of the monsoon, the ryots turned to their fields they were hard hit. Any little capital they possessed had disappeared, credit was exhausted, the gudewife's ornaments had been swallowed up, the small plenishings of the house were depleted, and mayhap, there was an ugly record of unpaid revenue due to Government. But the money-earning capacity of the ryot was only slightly affected, and when nature smiled again, the conditions of village life were not greatly changed. How different is the case of Guzerat to-day the concrete case of this hamlet of Ghoraj clearly shows. "My bullock is my life," says the old Hindu proverb; and Ghoraj could muster only a hundred and twenty head instead of a normal two hundred and fifty. We may take it that a pair of Guzerati bullocks is worth about R150; there are R19,500 swept away at one fell stroke. The milch cattle play an important part in the domestic economy of the Province, for milk and ghee form considerable items in the dietary of the people. The three hundred cows destroyed may be valued at R6,000, and the buffaloes at R12,500. So quite apart from the material loss caused by the withering of the crop, Ghoraj emerges from the famine poorer in its working capital by some R38,000. The effect of this is writ clearly in the state of the fields. Although much of the land needed a minimum amount of preparation, for it was ploughed and made ready for seed-time last year, but never sown, only one-half the normal area was brought under cultivation. The process of recovery is bound to be slow and tedious. Cattle cannot be raised in a

day, and inasmuch as the great breeding centres have suffered as severely as Guzerat, the market is limited and the price high even if the means are forthcoming. This loss will be in part compensated for by working the remaining cattle harder. The *kunbi* or *patidar* is a careful cultivator, and exacts but a moderate task from his oxen. Making all allowances for this, however, diminished working capital will certainly lead to decreased production, and many years will elapse before a full area will be cropped. This is without taking account of the lamentable decrease of the population. In Ghoraj alone one-sixth of the inhabitants have been carried off by disease and starvation since the beginning of the year, and the most deadly season has yet to be entered upon. Cholera appals by its unfamiliarity, its agonising swiftness, its dramatic intensity; but as a slayer fever is far more deadly, and the fever season is now approaching. We have not yet passed through the period of high mortality in Guzerat, and grave apprehensions are naturally entertained of the ravages disease may now make amongst an enfeebled and depleted population. To sum up, then, Ghoraj is left with only 60 per cent. of its plough cattle, the herds are decimated, the working capital of the hamlet is reduced by some ₹38,000, one-sixth of the inhabitants have perished, half the cultivable area lies fallow, and only a six-anna* crop can be fairly reckoned upon at the coming harvest. Apply this same standard to the hundreds of villages in Northern Guzerat, and some fair idea may be gained of what famine has meant to this Province.

To take another instance. A few miles from Ahmedabad, and within easy reach of the influence of the great and wealthy city, is the village of Saispur. Saispur is populated chiefly by *Kolis*, a class considerably inferior to the *Kunbis* as cultivators. The story reeled off by the village *Mukkhi* approximates closely to that gleaned at Ghoraj. A hundred people out of eight hundred have died since the famine. Only a hundred bullocks are left out of four hundred, all the village cows have died, and the *Burawars* have kept alive but three out of a hundred. The buffaloes have dwindled from a couple of hundred to sixty or seventy. A thousand *bhigas* of land are under cultivation out of two thousand, and the ryots do not expect more than an eight-anna crop. The ryots are strangely disinclined to use the hand tillage implements. Much is done with the *khodalie*, but in this part, with the hand plough nothing. But the villagers have their grievances, and they were not slow in giving voluble utterance to them. They had had no *tacavi* for the purchase of either cattle or seed grains. The position it seems is this—I give the figures with some reserve, because your village officer has a large and generous method not always consonant with strict accuracy. The inamdar pays a Government assessment of ₹997, and extracts some ₹1,500 from the cultivators in normal years. When *tacavi* was wanted the inamdar sat tight. He was too poor, the *kharbari* said, and the hapless ryot had to face the approaching seed time with neither bullocks nor seed. An appeal to the Collector produced a reference to the inamdar. Government had found work for his needy tenants, and are now feeding the destitute in the village kitchen, or supporting them by dole; they could do no more without a guarantee from the inamdar that the loan would be repaid. A further reference to the inamdar evoked a stolid *non possumus*, and the case of the villagers would have been hard indeed but for the intervention of the *padre saheb* and the Relief Fund. One of the brightest features which breaks the depressing monotony of a tour through the famine districts is the constant evidence of the grand self-abnegation and heroic single-mindedness with which the missionaries as a body have risen to the great opportunity afforded by this visitation. Their labours have not been in vain. The comparison between the benevolent activity of the foreign propagandist and the cold, callous neglect of many of their wealthy fellow-countrymen, has not been lost upon the Indian mind, and from this time missionary enterprise will command an appreciative and sympathetic admiration from the native, instead of jealous and suspicious scepticism. It was good to see eyes glow and faces kindle with gratitude as the hardy ryots recounted the tale of the *padre saheb's* munificence. The *padre saheb* had given them twenty plough cattle, rupees to buy seed grain, maize to fill their stomachs and sympathy to sweeten all.

* *i.e.*, $\frac{6}{16}$ths of an average crop.

An incident in Rajputana.

Yesterday I gave your hundred rupees to the Thakur of Unklia. It is a sadly pathetic story! He is an old man, a Rathor. About 128 years ago they were vassals of Bednor (Mewar). The drums and insignia of Maharana Ursi II of Udaipur were passing through and were attacked by robbers who were beaten off by Unklia's ancestor. For this service he was given the village of Unklia, income R1,500 a year, and made independent. Marriages, deaths, and bad seasons have left him ten thousand rupees in debt and this year's calamity put the finishing touches, leaving him personally practically destitute, without the means of providing sufficient food for his household. In distributing the charitable funds I worked his share up to three hundred and fifty rupees. He was informed of the amount and asked to submit a list of his deserving tenants and the amounts he would like given to each. Yesterday he came with a list, total R262 only. So I asked him why he had not put down the whole R350 which had been sanctioned. He replied "I have brought all my tenants and have stated their needs honestly." Knowing of his personal condition I said, "Thakur Saheb, I will distribute the amount you have recorded, but in addition I would like you to take one hundred rupees to use as you think fit." He replied "I would not know what to do with it, Saheb, for I have no other tenants to whom I could give it." It was of no use trying to beat round the bush any more, and, as there was no one else present, I said to him: "Will you take it yourself as a token of brotherhood from your English fellow-subjects of the great Queen." He replied "Saheb, you are very good, but I am a Rathor, I could not take charity." So I said "Take it then as a private loan from me. You can repay me when I want it," and to this he consented and I enclose his receipt, written by his son, "Saheb God bless you! I will pay fifty rupees on the reaping of this crop and fifty rupees, on the next crop": and he will try to, I feel sure, and I shall have to devise some means of avoiding repayment.

Incidents in Mewar.

About the middle of June 1900, near Udaipur, a young Bhil woman was found digging a hole under very suspicious circumstances. A little girl two or three months old was on the ground by her side, and by the child a long old and rusty knife. She was brought to me accused of being about to murder and bury, or murder by burying alive her child. The poor creature hardly attempted to deny the accusation, saying, what is the good of struggling to keep the child alive when we must die from starvation. She was quite destitute, had lost her husband, and had hardly a rag to cover herself or the baby. Considering her wild and uneducated condition and the awful sufferings she must have faced, one pitied rather than blamed her, and thought of trying to put her in circumstances where temptation to commit the awful crime she had meditated would disappear. This through the aid of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund I hope I was enabled to do. The poor woman was put on a State relief work, where she received the ordinary ration of flour for herself and the baby. In addition to this the Famine Fund provided a small extra ration of food specially suited for the weak state of both, and also a set of new clothes, and when the rains broke in July provided her with a supply of seed grain to carry her back to her home and a small sum of money in cash to keep the little household going till the crop should ripen.

This is only one of many instances of the way in which the Famine Fund made it possible to, in some way, give sufferers from the famine a chance of regaining their lost positions which it was impossible to do by State agencies only.

Another case that especially engraved itself on my memory, was that of a Bhil family consisting of father, mother, and one daughter of about eighteen. I found them in a poor house on the Kherwara Road keeping body and soul together on the ration of boiled grain provided by the State. The mother and daughter were almost naked and the girl's head, which had been shaved, was dreadfully disfigured by broad deep gashes.

Their story was this: The family had been one of the richest of the district, possessing some 50 or 60 cattle, and living in a little detached homestead. By March 1900, the famine had killed off most of the cattle, but some dozen or so

still remained and the family hoped to save some few of these at least. One night in March when the father was away from home, a gang of marauding Bhils raided the house and carried off everything, even the woman's clothes. One of them fearing that the girl had recognised him returned and beat her head with stones, leaving her for dead.

The Famine Fund enabled me to take these unfortunate people from the common poor-house, and provide them with clothes, seed, a pair of bullocks and a small sum of money on which to re-start their little home.

APPENDIX A.

Report of the public meeting held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on February 16th 1900.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta and the suburbs was held at the Calcutta Town Hall yesterday afternoon, in connection with the present famine in India. The Viceroy presided, and the Town Hall was simply packed. Several ladies were present. Among the large gathering were the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice of Bengal, the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Archbishop Goethals, The Maharaja of Darbhanga, Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohan Tagore, Maharaja Sir Narendro Krishna, Sir Patrick Playfair, the Hon'ble Prince Mahomed Bukhtyar Shah, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir Edwin Collen, the Hon'ble Mr. Dawkins, the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson, the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble Rai Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Nawab Faiyaz Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. Woodroffe, the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton, the Hon'ble Mr. Baker, the Hon'ble Rai Durgagati Banerjee, the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, the Hon'ble Maharaja of Tahirpur, the Hon'ble Raja of Nashipore, the Hon'ble Mr. Spink, Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee, Kumar Prodyot Coomar Tagore, Mr. Justice Hill, Mr. Justice Stanley, Mr. Justice Banerjee, Mr. Justice Ghose, and Mr. R. T Greer. On arrival His Excellency was received by the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and the Maharaja of Darbhanga, President of the British Indian Association, and conducted to his seat on the platform.

The Hon'ble Prince Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, Sheriff of Calcutta, in declaring the meeting open, said: Your Excellency and gentlemen,—It is not necessary for me to say more about the object of this meeting than that it is one with which I, in common with all men, entirely sympathise. We have assembled here to-day in thousands to inaugurate the Famine Relief Fund. England has subscribed a very large amount towards the Lord Mayor's Indian Famine Relief Fund, and it behoves all of us to come forward and open our purses for the relief of poor famine-stricken India. I declare this meeting to be formally open in compliance with the requisition which I hold in my hand, and to call upon you, gentlemen, to proceed to the election of your Chairman.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore moved that His Excellency be requested to accept the office of President of the meeting. He said: It will, no doubt, be remembered by many of us who are present here this evening that when the last famine meeting in 1897 was held with the object of raising funds for the relief of the disstresed millions of the famine-stricken districts, much of the success of its exertions was due to the sympathising presence in the chair of the representative of our gracious Sovereign, the then Viceroy of India, Lord Elgin. We are met here to-day for a similar purpose, with a greater exigency for help to the sufferers by the present famine, as has been found on personal inspection by the Viceroy himself, and I have every reason to hope that the efforts of this meeting, under similar august auspices, will be crowned with an equal amount of success. I have the honour, gentlemen, to propose therefore that the Viceroy, whose personal sympathy and solicitude for the lives of the famished population are well known, be requested to accept the office of President of this meeting.

The Hon'ble Mr. Spink seconded the motion. He said: A few words only are required of me in support of the motion which has been moved in such appropriate terms by the Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohan Tagore, who has briefly explained the nature of our business here this afternoon, namely, to organise a charitable fund for the relief of the distress in the famine-stricken districts. As it is so eminently in accordance with the fitness of things, so completely in harmony, I am sure, with the wishes of all present, that this important meeting should be presided over by none other than the Viceroy, the representative in India of our beloved Sovereign, who, notwithstanding the sorrows and troubles which surround her throne and home, is ever mindful of, and sympathises with, the sufferings of her loyal subjects in this country. The fact that His Excellency has graciously honoured us with his presence here this afternoon to preside over us, is the best assurance we could possibly have that there need be no apprehension as to the ultimate success of the object this meeting has in view. With these remarks, I have the pleasure to second the motion, that the Viceroy be requested to accept the office of President of this meeting.

The Viceroy's Speech.

The Viceroy, who, on rising, was received with applause, said: It is a source of much distress to me that the first occasion upon which I should have been invited to take the chair at a great meeting of the citizens of Calcutta, convened by the Sheriff in deference to a requisition from the leading members, both of the European and native communities, should be of the present character. It is a sorrowful task to stand up and to speak of the sufferings of millions of our fellow-creatures who, while we are living

in comfort and affluence, are enduring severe hardships and privations, and are practically only being saved from the clutches of death by the direct action of the State. And yet, on the other hand, I can imagine no occasion more loudly calling for a meeting such as this, or for the presence of the Viceroy in the chair, than one in which he should, as the head of the Government of India, as the official spokesman of society, and as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, address that appeal to the Indian world, which he is probably only anticipating its natural instincts in making, but which, nevertheless, will derive force and concentration from the circumstances under which it is delivered. You are all aware, ladies and gentlemen, that we are confronted in India by a famine of unparalleled magnitude. Of each famine as it comes these words are apt to be used and I am conscious of the dangers of exaggeration. At the same time, from the figures and facts submitted to me, from the totals already on relief, and from the estimates of the probable duration and extent of the suffering that have been sent up, I entertain little doubt that, in the territories that are seriously affected, the description is literally true. I might emphasise the tragedy and the pathos of the situation by adding that in some parts of India plague co-exists with famine, and that, for instance, in Bombay city, more people are now dying in each week from plague than has ever been the case before, at the same moment that in other parts of the Bombay Presidency more people are only being saved from death from famine by Government relief. On the present occasion, however, I prefer to say nothing further about plague. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." The picture is already sombre enough without any darkening of the colours, and it is to the situation as created by famine alone that I invite your attention this afternoon.

I have, during the past few days, received accounts, specially sent to me at my request, from every affected province or part of India, which enable me to give you the most recent tidings. When I spoke in Council, exactly four weeks ago from to-day, the numbers throughout India in receipt of relief exceeded $3\frac{1}{4}$ millions. To-day, in spite of the closer stringency of tests which has been applied, and which, I may say in passing, has been unanimously welcomed by the Local Governments and officers as both timely and necessary, the total exceeds $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions. No such number of persons has ever before been simultaneously relieved by any Government in the world. But I am constrained to admit that, in spite of every legitimate precaution that may be taken, these totals are not likely to prove the maximum, but that in the spring and summer months that lie before us, they will be substantially increased.

Bombay reports to us a distress that is attacking classes and strata of society hitherto exempt. The Punjab says that the loss of crops in that province has been the greatest on record, and that, whereas in 1897 the numbers on relief steadily declined from the month of February onwards, in the present year they will as surely mount up. In the Central Provinces $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions of persons are already on relief, and the Chief Commissioner contemplates that before June this total may have swollen to two millions. The Central Provinces were the dark spot of the famine of 1896-97. But the intensity and extent of the drought are greater now, and must leave a blight upon that unhappy province for many a long year to come. In Central India, even fertile Malwa, which has always been an asylum for famine-stricken wanderers from other parts, has itself been stripped bare, and hundreds of thousands of poor fugitives who crowded over the border in the early days of scarcity, have drifted back again, to pick up a meagre subsistence wherever they can. Famine conditions of the worst type prevail in Western Rajputana, where Jodhpore has lost as much as 90 per cent. of its stock of cattle; other States little less; and they are spreading towards the Eastern parts of that region.

All these circumstances will show you that there is no exaggeration in describing the present as an unprecedented emergency, and that it is with as forcible and overpowering a ground of appeal as any pleader for charity ever possessed, that I appear before you this afternoon. I think I may say with truth that, except in some Native States, which either did not possess the requisite organisation or which began rather late in the day, mortality from famine has, so far, been almost completely, if not absolutely, repressed. Such deaths as have occurred here or there have been of a character normal in any period of distress, owing to lowered physique. At such times some of the invalids and weaklings of the village inevitably die. But there has been a conspicuous absence on the present occasion of the poor emaciated wastrels, the living skeletons, whose pitiful likenesses nearly broke our hearts when they appeared in the illustrated papers three years ago. When I remember that the great Duke of Wellington, who had to fight a big famine in the Deccan while in command there at the beginning of the present century, wrote in one of his Despatches that at Ahmednagar alone fifty persons died of starvation each day, and when I contemplate the enormous numbers with which we are now dealing, I do feel some glow of honourable pride. To any who may think that the recent rains which have fallen in some parts of India and the fringe of which has even reached us in Calcutta, may sensibly alleviate the position, I must regretfully point out that, while they have been of some assistance in parts of the Punjab, even there they have produced no check upon the upward rise of the relief figures, while elsewhere in the afflicted parts of Bombay, Rajputana, Central India and the Central Provinces, there has been no rain at all. There the ground is like an oven, which, as the spring grows into summer, will become hotter and still more burning.

Ladies and gentlemen, a month ago I hardly contemplated that, great and increasing as our sufferings were, we could expect very much practical assistance from England. Sympathy from all, help from the particular friends of India, contributions from a few, I felt certain that we should receive. But that, in the midst of all its anxieties and troubles, the British nations should open wide its purse to us seemed to me to be unlikely, and even not to be expected. I scarcely thought that the expression of my doubt would be transmitted home. But never was I more pleased than when I ascertained that I had underrated the degree of interest which many of my countrymen in England take in India, however great their absorption in other concerns, and when the Lord Mayor came forward and offered to place the prestige and help of the Mansion House at our disposal, I felt then, and the Secretary of State shared my opinion, that to all in England who were willing to give, the opportunity should not be denied ; that, whether the offerings were great or small, they would be acceptable ; and that, though the old country could not do for us again what it did in 1896-97, something of value might be expected from its generosity. It is in these circumstances that a branch of the fund, which we are about to inaugurate this afternoon, is being opened to-day in London by the Lord Mayor, to which the subscriptions of our English friends and sympathiser will be sent. Meanwhile we had already decided to open an Indian Famine Fund here, and to make our appeal to the entire country. My first step in the constitution of the requisite machinery was to ask Her Majesty the Queen-Empress if she would again consent, as in 1897, to be patron of the fund. Along with her gracious acceptance of this post Her Majesty generously announced a contribution of £1,000 towards the fund, only one among many examples of her noble fellow-feeling for her Indian people. In India, I have already found that a similar interest and a like generosity prevail. Before this meeting or this fund were made known, the Maharaja of Darbhanga came to me, and in that spirit of open-handed and large-hearted munificence which we have learned in a comparatively short time to associate permanently with his name, he offered to inaugurate any such fund by a donation—a truly princely donation—of 1½ lakhs or £10,000. Other generous offers and promises have since followed, and already, I think, I may say that the ship that we are launching this afternoon is fairly under way.

I may mention the following additional donations :—

Maharani of Hattwa		1,00,000
British India Steam Navigation Co. and Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.		80,000
Nawab of Dacca		50,000
Maharaja of Burdwan		10,000
Messrs. Ralli Brothers (in addition to Rs. 20,000 given to Bombay—Rs. 30,000 in all)		10,000
„ Apcar & Co.		10,000
„ Cooper, Allen & Co.		10,000
„ Gillanders, Arbuthnot & Co.		5,000
„ Graham & Co. (and Rs 5,000 promised to Bombay—Rs. 10,000 in all)		5,000
„ Thomas Duff & Co.		5,000
„ Birkmyre Brothers		5,000
„ Schröder, Smidt & Co.		5,000
„ Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co.		5,000
India General Steam Navigation Co. and Messrs. Kilburn & Co.		5,000
Messrs. Barry & Co.		5,000
„ Jardine, Skinner, & Co.		5,000
	Or in all Rs.	4,65,000

I may add that I have been fortunate enough to persuade Sir Francis Maclean, the Chief Justice of Bengal, who was Chairman of the Committee in 1897, to give us the advantage of his experience and authority in the same capacity now, and also to enlist the energies of Mr. Donald Smeaton as Secretary.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, you may expect a few words from me as to the conditions under which we appeal to your charity and the objects to which it will be applied. I am not inclined to draw any pedantic distinction between the spheres of Government duty and of private benevolence. Wide as is the scope of the former, inasmuch as it includes the whole duty of saving human life, it is not so ample as to leave no margin for outside assistance. We are not asking you to relieve Government of its due burden, or to save us from one penny of expenditure that ought properly to fall upon our shoulders. Whatever you give us will make no difference in the extent and character of our outlay. That is fixed for us by the high conception that we entertain of our public duty. But for all that, there is an ample field for private generosity, both in supplement to that which the State can do and must do, and often in pursuit of that which the State cannot do at all. It is our task to keep the people alive and to see them safely through the period of their sufferings. But no expert knowledge is required to recognize that there are a hundred ways in which the condition of their sufferings may be alleviated, while they still last, and a fresh start in the world be given to the sufferers when the worst is over. The legitimate objects of private charity have, indeed, been carefully analysed and scientifically laid down both by Government during the last famine, and by the Famine Commission afterwards. We ask your money to provide warm raiment, clothes and blankets, for the poor workers, who spend their nights out of doors, either in the open air or under flimsy mats of straw. In the

Punjab as you know,it is still very cold at nights. Later on, when the rains come, the same covering will be required to ward off the chills that bring fever and dysentery in their train. Think, again, of the good that may be done by the distribution of small comforts, of milk and arrowroot and cornflour, and other medicinal sustenance, to the aged and infirm, to invalids, and, above all, to children. My one happy experience in connection with the whole famine is my recollection of having saved the lives of two poor little children in Kathiawar, who were very nearly gone, but for whom I ordered milk to be supplied until they were quite recovered, as I have since heard with satisfactory results. A third object to which the funds subscribed by charity are devoted is the relief of orphans, although I hope that our timely measures and vast outlay may prevent there being many of this class upon the present occasion. Then there is a class who appeal peculiarly for private assistance, since they deliberately, though for the most honourable of motives, elect to stand outside of State relief. I allude to the *purda-nashin* women whom our system does not touch, and to the destitute, but respectable, persons and classes who are too proud to apply for Government help, who find it derogatory to labour, and who would sooner die than beg. In Native States these are likely to be provided for. But there is many a silent sufferer of these classes in British India for whom I would plead. Finally, there remains the great object upon which the bulk of the money that was subscribed in 1879 was spent, *viz.*, the provision of cattle, of grain, of fodder, of implements, to enable the sufferers to make a start again in life, when the time of adversity is past. Government does what it can in such cases by *tacavi* advances, by remissions of rent, and otherwise; but it is beyond our power to cover the whole field that is open: and there is not a donor, however humble, in India or in England, of even a rupee or a shilling to our cause, who may not be honestly confident that that petty sum will bring a ray of light, a dawning of hope, into the heart of some unhappy peasant who, for months will not have known what light or hope were. These, then, are the objects upon which will be expended such funds, whether from England or from India, as the public may be willing to give us. Let me add that, on the present occasion, we propose to make no discrimination between the claim of Native States and of British India. In the famine of 1897 organised relief was only in an experimental stage in Native territory; relief fund committees had not been created; the agency for distribution did not exist, and the fund was primarily raised for British India. This year, however, famine is much more pronounced in the Native States; the distress in many of them is very acute; their recuperative power will be small; the Chiefs and Durbars have, under the initiative of Government, accepted a responsibility quite new to them, and have organised a system which has in many cases placed a severe strain upon their resources. We owe them a return for their gallant efforts, and their people deserve the public bounty just as much as do our own. In some of these Native States private charity has already come to the assistance of the Durbars. The Seths of Bikanir and Bundelkhand have been loyally and generously assisting the Chiefs. Private committees exist in Jaipur, Ajmere, Abu and other places. As we have read in the newspapers, public committees and funds were started, some time ago, both in Bombay and in the Punjab. While native generosity is thus forthcoming in many parts, though not, I regret to say, equally in all, it is a pleasure to me to add that I know of many cases in which English officers, personally engaged in the famine fight, are setting aside no small portion of their own salaries to supplement the relief which they are already administering on behalf of Government. Similarly, many a native official is labouring manfully in the common cause.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, though I do not suppose that there is any one in this hall who would ask why Bengal and Calcutta should be asked to contribute when they are not suffering, yet should such a thought occur to any man, I would say to him that this is the very reason why I invite him all the more to subscribe. Not merely is Indian suffering an Indian interest, irrespective of province, or district, or city, but there is in the circumstances of the present case a peculiar reason for a generous response in this part of the country. While no rain has fallen elsewhere, Bengal has enjoyed a full share. The suffering of others has even proved your gain: for the Bengal cultivators have realised for their surplus crops a price that in ordinary times they would not have touched. Apart from this, however, was there ever a case in which the rich man out of his abundance should more freely give to the poor man in his misery? If any rich man in this city is in any doubt as to whether he should subscribe, I would gladly give him a railway ticket to a famine district and take what he chose to give me on his return. He might go with a hard heart; but he would come back with a broken one. Nor need any poor man desist from offering his mite. A mite to him may be almost a fortune to the starving. To each of us, therefore, the call should come; to every one, European or native, official, merchant, or professional man, it may equally appeal. In yielding to it, we shall be obeying a summons that lies at the root of all religion, and is the consecration of our common humanity.

First Resolution.

The Maharaja of Darbhanga, in moving the resolution, said: I am deeply sensible of the honour that has been conferred upon me by the placing in my hands of the first of the resolutions which will be submitted to you to-day. It is exactly three years ago since an assembly was held in this city for an exactly similar purpose to that which has

brought us here upon the present occasion. How few of us could then have anticipated that, within so short a period, the shadow of famine could again be brooding over our land! And yet so it is. Once more we are met together, with the cry of thousands of our starving fellow-countrymen ringing in our ears, to recognise, with sorrow, that the crops have failed in district after district, and in province after province. Once more it has become our duty to inaugurate a fund for the relief of the helpless and the famine-stricken; and once more I am confident we shall come forward as one man to discharge the sacred obligation. The seriousness of the situation cannot be better emphasised than by the presence in the chair of this meeting of the representative of our gracious Sovereign, who has afforded us yet another token of her kindly sympathy for her Indian subjects by her acceptance of the office of Patron of the fund. Under such auspices, the movement has even now, while yet in its infancy, assumed almost a national character. There is not a community or association in Calcutta that has not come forward with the utmost heartiness and cordiality to accord to Your Excellency its respectful and loyal support upon the present occasion. In times such as these, the artificial barriers vanish which separate community from community and association from association. The call of humanity takes precedence over all others. Heedless of considerations of creed and caste, of class and race, it unites us in one common bond. I do not presume to address you to-day as the representative of any particular body of individuals or as the head of any particular association. But if I may speak at all of differences of religious opinion upon an occasion such as this, I would say that it was as a member of the orthodox Hindoo community that I specially felt it my duty to accept the invitation so graciously extended to me to take a part in the proceedings of this afternoon. For to the Hindoos there is something peculiarly irresistible in the call of charity. The relief of suffering is inculcated by our religion and by our sacred books. It is part and parcel of our lives, and is bound up with our very existence. I take it that there will be no one throughout the length and breadth of India who will deny that the time has clearly and unmistakably come to appeal to the charity of the public. That the Government will come forward in the same spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice which they have manifested upon previous occasions, we know, and we are sincerely grateful to them for it. But the resources of the Government are not limitless. I find that there were in the first week of this month no fewer than 3,784,633 persons in receipt of assistance of various kinds, and the tale of suffering and distress is by no means closed. There still remains, and there must remain, much that may be supplemented by public charity. That is the work reserved for us, and that is the duty which we are called upon to fulfil And in what spirit should we approach the performance of this duty? There are some who are actuated in their benefactions by a desire to achieve worldly advancement. Others, again, look for their reward in the world to come. Let us cast both these motives from us. There is yet another class, and it is to that class I trust and believe the majority of us belong. These seek not for a heavenly or an earthly reward. In their minds the claims of charity soar above all else; and for the sake of charity herself and for the love of God they minister to the needs of afflicted humanity. I should like to think that it is with these feelings that we Hindoos shall offer our contributions to the fund which it is the object of our meeting to inaugurate. But I do not arrogate for my co-religionists the possession of qualities which are denied to those of other creeds. In the presence of the Lord Bishop and of the representatives of the great Mahomedan community, such conduct upon my part would be alike unseemly and impertinent. Yet I may at least congratulate myself that here, at all events, we have a subject upon which there cannot be any disagreement, and about which there cannot be any two opinions. The enemy is at our very gates, and the only contest in which we can engage is to vie with one another in swelling the subscription lists. Letno man deem himself too poor or too insignificant to take part in the friendly rivalry. We can all make our sacrifices in proportion to our means. I appeal to all classes of the community, to every clerk in mercantile or Government employ, to every banker and broker, to every legal practitioner, to every landowner, to every journalist, to every patriot whose heart bleeds for the sufferings of the famine-stricken population—I appeal to them all to give up one day's income to the fund and to show to the world at large that there is such a thing as an united India. No contribution is too trifling in aid of such a cause. For it is only by a sustained effort from all ranks and classes that we can hope to raise a fund that will be worthy of ourselves and of our country. The disposal of the fund will be in excellent hands, and I do not presume to offer any observations as to the details of its distribution. But a suggestion has been pressed upon me by influential members of the Hindoo and the Jain communities, which I think it my duty to lay before the meeting. It is to the effect that a portion, however small, of the money we may collect may be devoted to the sustenance of the cattle in the famine-stricken districts. There has been almost as much suffering among animals as among men, and, both from a religious and a utilitarian, as well as from an agricultural point of view, I venture to commend the suggestion to your favourable consideration. The matter is already engaging the attention of the Government of Bombay, who are, I rejoice to think, fully alive to its importance; and I am especially glad to note that the Maharaja of Jodhpore and the Nawab of Tonk have taken it up with the greatest vigour, and are taking active steps for the preservation and the feeding of the cattle. You will see, therefore, that any aid which we may give in this direction will be, not only welcome, but opportune. One word more before I conclude. There may be some amongst us

who may cavil at this second appeal to our benevolence, following so closely, as it does upon the heels of the Transvaal War Fund. To such critics the reply is easy. If the English people can bear the double burden, if they can find room to sympathise with us and to aid us in the midst of their own troubles, when so many households are plunged in grief, what right have we to shrink back? My Lord, we people of India can never forget the deep debt of gratitude we owe to our fellow-subjects in England for the generous and timely aid so often proffered to us in years of famine. Had it not been for that assistance, thousands must have gone unrelieved. By participating in the movement for the succour of the wives and children of the gallant soldiers in South Africa, we have striven to repay that debt in part, no less than to show our loyalty to our Queen. But to-day we have met to discharge a duty to ourselves. Although our own province is for the present, immune, the calamity which has befallen us is essentially a domestic one, and our offerings must be proportionately larger. It is high time for action on our part. The situation is daily becoming graver and graver, and as matters even now stand, the famine of 1900 promises to be a far severer one than that of 1897. What need, then, for me to dwell on the subject further? There are the facts, and here is your opportunity contained in the resolution which I have now the honour to move, and which runs as follows:—"That the meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a Charitable Fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India; that the need of relief is more urgent than it was in 1897; such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government, and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations; and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country, and contributions from abroad be thankfully received."

The Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur said: I have the honour of rising to second the resolution which has been so eloquently proposed by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. From the facts which have been laid before us this afternoon by the Viceroy, it is abundantly clear that this meeting has not been called together a day too soon, if effective relief is to be given to the distressed people in the famine districts of India. As His Excellency has pointed out, the severity of the present famine is unprecedented in the history of India, and while in 1897 the numbers on relief works were very great, the millions that are now in receipt of relief are sufficient to cause, not only the Government, but all sympathetic people, profound anxiety. While the ruler of this country cannot but regard the present situation with a heavy heart, he does not despair. He accepts, on behalf of the Government of India, the immensely difficult task of keeping alive the poorest of the population, and at the same time is mindful of those whom Government cannot reach, and who, though sorely tried, do not by reason of the conditions prevailing in this country cry out for help. It is for them he appeals to the well-to-do of this and other countries. The last public meeting I attended in Calcutta was in connection with Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebration. It was then said that men of all races, all religions, and all professions met on a common platform to do honour to one whose life had been a life of justice and of sympathy. In like manner this afternoon we, of all races, of all religions, of all professions, meet on a common platform, and the link that binds us together is the strong link of charity. The well-to-do people of this country will, I feel sure, meet the call that has been made on them with a generosity suitable to the great needs of their fellow-subjects, and from countries abroad a similar liberality will, no doubt, be displayed. In 1897 Lancashire made a noble response to the appeal then made by heading the list of subscribers with the splendid sum of £106,000, and was closely followed by other centres. When the eloquent words in which His Excellency has described the situation, are flashed to all parts of the British Empire and when the severity of the present crisis is brought home to the liberal-minded throughout the Empire, it will be found by the distressed people of India that their Viceroy has not pleaded for them in vain. With these few remarks I beg to second the first resolution.

Sir John Woodburn supported the resolution. He said: It needs no words from me to commend this resolution to this assembly. I have nothing to add to the statement of mournful facts which has been made to you by His Excellency. I have to make no appeal to you for Bengal. In the merciful dispensations of Providence, this province has been spared the miseries that have befallen its unfortunate sisters in the centre and west of India. Our harvests have been bountiful, and, though we have our own troubles of another kind, the hearts of the people are free from the anxieties for food for themselves and their children, which are the most pitiful of all. Our sympathies are none the less genuine for sufferings from which we have ourselves escaped. We have ourselves passed through them. The remembrance of them is still vividly with us, and we can understand what is the calamity to a people of reiterated famine. Not in the history of India have there been such repeated strokes of agricultural disaster, and we can realise the despair of those whose livelihood disappears as drought succeeds drought. My Lord, there is no people of more tender heart to the poor and the needy than the people of India. According to their means all will give to works of charity and mercy. The duty and the privilege will be felt this year throughout Bengal. Your Excellency has announced the princely benefactions of some of the great nobles of the province. Many gifts of such munificence are not possible, but I have no manner of doubt that countless, if more modest, offerings will be made for the help and comfort of the sufferers elsewhere. The

widow's mite was commended of old. We speak of the unchanging East. In this respect it is true, and it will be only like the people of this kindly land if this meeting is followed by an outpouring of fervent and practical sympathy.

Moulvi Abdul Jubbar, Prime Minister of Bhopal, also supported the resolution. He said : Your Excellency, your Honour, and ladies and gentlemen,—I rise to perform a duty which is intimately connected with one's religion, for the object of this meeting being charity, every individual Mahomedan, Christian or Hindoo, is bound to support it, as the Koran, the Bible, and the Shastras enjoin benevolence. According to the religious code of Islam, it is obligatory upon every well-to-do Mahomedan to give in charity a specified portion of his property. The commandment, which says : "Observe the stated times of prayer and pay your legal alms" is repeated eighty-two times in the Koran, and no Mahomedan who is owner of Rs. 54, and has therefore to discharge a religious obligation, can find a more suitable time than the present to pay his religious debt and save his fellow-beings from starvation and death. I have just come from Central India, and, although that part of the country, I am thankful to say, is comparatively better off, I have seen not an inconsiderable number of famine-stricken wanderers from Rajputana, who have been attracted to Bhopal by the reputation which the Begum has deservedly earned for generosity. The condition of those people who have left their home in search of food, is simply heart-rending. They, as well as their cattle, have been reduced to skeletons. Therefore those who are able to spare a penny should not withhold it from their starving fellow-creatures. A Persian moralist remarked that that man was fortunate who spent and gave away, and that man unfortunate who died and left behind. Our beloved Queen-Empress under whose benign rule we enjoy security of life and property, has recently expressed her sympathy with her subjects whom famine had made destitute, and her august representative, the Viceroy, is here to-day to help them. We cannot on the present occasion give better proof of our loyalty to the Throne and of gratitude to His Excellency than by contributing liberally to the famine fund. I, therefore, support the resolution moved by the Maharaja of Darbhanga.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta said :—Your Excellency, your Honour, and Gentlemen,—I am very thankful that by way of supporting the resolution which is now before the meeting, I am given this opportunity of pleading the cause of the Presidency from which I come and to which I belong. Never within living memory, never perhaps within the memory of history, has the Bombay Presidency been striken so sore as it has been for the last three years and as it is still now. Plague and pestilence and famine have been poured on its devoted head without pause or intermission ever since September, 1896. Were not our faith well-grounded in the wisdom and ultimate beneficence of the dispensations of Providence, however inscrutable, we might almost be tempted to murmur and rebel against what that most Greek of English poets has in his pagan fashion bemoaned as "the mystery of the cruelty of things." And mysterious and cruel have indeed been the trials to which the afflicted Presidency has been incessantly subjected and through which it is still passing. It is difficult for those who have not been in the very midst of them to realize terrible horrors of the combined calamities which have ravaged and desolated the land from end to end,—horrors more frightful even than those which war has cruelly brought home to us within the last few months. In speaking of them, it is impossible not to dwell for a single moment on the most pathetic feature of the situation, and to bestow a word of praise and admiration for the patience and resignation with which the people have borne their sufferings—never afraid for themselves or for their lives, afraid only of being severed from those near and dear to them. Iot was in September, 1896, that plague first put in its dread appearance in Bombay city, and as it extended its tour throughout the mofussil, its energies were reinforced by the fell forces of famine in the following year. As to plague, it has never relaxed its grip of the Presidency, and its devastations have continued unchecked. It was hoped, however, that the unholy alliance between plague and famine would not recur. But alas for the vanity of human speculations, their combined forces have re-appeared again, like giants refreshed, raging more furiously than ever. In Bombay the total mortality has already reached 400 deaths a day, and famine has settled on the province in its most unrelenting form. There is not only a failure of crops, but also of water and fodder. The destruction of cattle has been already enormous, and the increase in railway traffic, which is generally a matter of rejoicing, is one of woe, for the increased traffic is in bones and hides. The situation has thus become one which demands the strenuous co-operation of Government aid and private philanthropy, and the exigency is such that the time for local efforts is past, and the whole country must rally round the standard which His Excellency has unfurled to-day. With regard to State aid, we may well set our minds at rest. There has been some amount of criticism as to the precise wording of the official announcements on the subject. But whatever may be the way in which the principles guiding State relief are presented one thing we may be sure that a Viceroy who has unbounded love and sympathy for this country and its peoples, and whose energy and force of character keep pace with his love and sympathy, will fulfil to the utmost what he has himself described as "the obligation of Government tn spend its last rupee in the saving of human life and in the mitigation of extreme human suffering," and that all necessary limitations will be interpreted with generosity and humanity. I trust, gentlemen, that our own obligation, no less imperious because voluntary, no less binding because only moral, will be discharged in the same spirit,

We are ready enough to criticise the action of Government with regard to its famine operations. I venture to say that is as it should be. But we should be totally unworthy of that valuable and important *rôle*, if we did not, when our own time of action came, practise the principles that we preach, if we did not give all the help we could as generously and as humanely as we ask Government to do. I am sure no such reproach will attach to us, and the response which the country will give to this present appeal to its benevolence, and its philanthropy will be worthy of a movement inaugurated under the auspices of that gracious lady whom we not only regard as the greatest living Sovereign upon the earth, but whom we have learned to revere and venerate for the gentleness and nobility of her heart. Gentlemen, I will not detain you any longer. But I cannot sit down without referring to two circumstances connected with Famine Relief Fund which has been already inaugurated by a public meeting in Bombay. When I heard His Excellency read out the list of subscribers in which European names figured so handsomely, I was reminded of the fact that the Bombay list also shows large, liberal and generous donations from Europeans and European firms. The other circumstance to which I wish to allude is even more interesting. We have been admiring for some time how under the presidency of the Metropolitan, who is present among us, Christian prelates have shown that true and earnest Christian conviction is not incompatable with broad-minded, liberal and generous toleration and sympathy. In this spirit, the Lord Bishop of Bombay has thrown himself heart and soul in working for the famine fund, and under his guidance a long string of offertories from a number of Christian Congregations swell the subscription list. The Maharaja of Darbungha claims charity as a peculiarly Hindoo function. Mr. Abdul Jubber says it is one of the most sacred injunctions of the Koran. Let us then, men of all creeds and religions, vie with each other in raising a fund which will be blessed by all.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Second Resolution.

Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice, Bengal, in moving the second resolution, said Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,—In rising to propose the resolution which has been committed to my charge, I scarcely think that, having regard to the eloquent speeches we have already heard and to the hour of the afternoon, I ought to detain you save for a few moments. Little did I anticipate, when, three years ago many of us stood upon this platform with the same object in view as we have to-day, that in so brief a space of time we should again assemble to advocate the same cause, a sad but most praiseworthy one—the cause of assisting those who in our land are sufferers from famine. Many of the principal actors in the scene three years ago are not with us to-day; but this circumstance only emphasises the fact that whilst men may come and men may go, the tide of generosity, the stream of charity, and the current of sympathy flow on for ever in the happy and catholic direction of assuaging the sorrows and mitigating the misfortunes of suffering humanity—and I am satisfied, Sir, that our gathering to-day will not be in vain. On the last occasion I was one of those who took a most hopeful view of the probable result of our appeal to the civilized world, and the event justified my expectation. Not only Great Britain, but yet Greater Britan, that vast and rapidly solidifying Empire which we see banded together to-day, in one common cause, and that cause a just one—Canada and Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, and many other colonies, to say nothing of India herself—vied with each other in the cause of charity, whilst that great English-speaking nation, the United States, our American cousins, were not one wit behind. The result of that appeal was splendid—an aggregate sum of nearly one hundred and seventy lakhs. It would, I fear, be raising false hopes to anticipate a similar result upon the present occasion, for the calls upon the generosity and charity of our countrymen at home are now very heavy. Still I am very hopeful, and the contributions already promised and the sums already collected by the Lord Mayor of London augur well for the future. I may, perhaps, mention that from the last fund a surplus of roughly nine and-a-half lakhs remained. Of this the Committee, of which I have the honour to be President, have already distributed about a lakh, and we have resolved to hand over the balance, a sum of eight and-a-half lakhs, as a nucleus for the present fund. We in Bengal are this year spared this terrible scourge. Let us, then, out of your well-stored granaries, go to the assistance of our impoverished neighbours. In 1897 I formally expressed to the Lord Mayor of London the opinion that the generosity evinced towards the starving peasantry of India would stir in their hearts a feeling of gratitude, which would be long remembered, towards those who so sympathetically assisted them; and I think I was right. The sincere and splendid evolution of loyalty and sympathy so recently and so actively displayed by the native Princes and the people of India towards our Empress and the British nation in this our hour of national anxiety and which has been so deeply appreciated, may not unfairly be regarded as springing, to some extent, from the gratitude felt, and now so opportunely expressed. Depend upon it, sir, it is these touches of nature, these expressions of sympathy, which tend to make a people one, and an Empire united. And, Sir, as the head of that great and important body, so powerful for good, so powerless, I even trust, for evil—I mean the judiciary of India, I cannot but express my admiration of the conduct of the peasantry in the trying days of 1897—con-

duct which, amongst much privation and much temptation, proved that they were a patient, an orderly, and law-abiding people. We invite the generous and the sympathetic to help these poor people yet once again—to afford us the means to send to the aged and to the infirm, yes, and to little children, such small creature comforts as the Government cannot give; to maintain the orphans; to help those, poor and respectable, who, from caste feelings or reasons of sensitiveness, cannot and will not apply for Government relief; and last, but by no means least, to extend a helping hand to those who have lost their all in the struggle; to give them a fresh start in life, and to inspire them at last with the spirit of hope. These, Sir, are aims worthy of a generous people, and in this sense and in this spirit I cordially commend the resolution to this most distinguished assemblage.

The resolution runs as follows:—

"That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may be legitimately devoted as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India*, of the 9th January, 1897 (copy extract circulated), and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund; and resolves that a General Committee composed of the following gentlemen [list circulated] be appointed, with power to add to their number and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund."

Maharaja Sir Narendro Krishna, in seconding the resolution, said: Your Excellency,—It is a regrettable circumstance that the failure of autumn and winter rains in the States of Rajputana, the Central Provinces and other places, has destroyed the crops yielding food-grains such as rice, wheat, millet, and other cereals, and created famine among the people. Government has directed the formation of groups of competent officers to afford relief to them, and is incurring a heavy expenditure to save their lives. Irrigation canals are supplying water where they exist; but many are dying for want of sufficient nourishment, and even cattle are perishing from scarcity of fodder and water. In this emergency Lord Curzon is desirous that we should come forward to the help of these unfortunate people, of whom about three millions are daily fed—mostly at the expense of Government. On hearing of their distress, the Lord Mayor of London has opened a famine fund, and the English nation, owing to their kindness and love of our countrymen, will subscribe for their benefit, but we should remember the existence of mourning in almost all the hearths and homes in England, caused by this wretched Boer war, and that they are not at present in a cheerful mood to render help as unstintedly as they did in the year 1897. Famine will occasionally occur and re-occur in elevated districts where irrigation has not yet been introduced, but the construction of railways will considerably lessen the evil by carrying articles of food to the famished people. Our esteemed Viceroy has publicly stated, in the Council, that instructions have been issued to the officers of Government to guard against all preventible deaths from starvation, but the entire income of Government cannot be allowed to be swallowed up by this dire evil of a monster famine. In the relief works people able to labour are earning their livelihood by accepting the conditions on which Government help can be obtained, and subscriptions received from private charity will be devoted to the maintenance of those people who cannot be employed under the rules of Government. It now remains for the public, both European and native, to co-operate with Government in adopting proper measures to mitigate the miseries of the people.

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta, in supporting the resolution, said: Your Excellency, your Honour, ladies and gentlemen,—There are so many speakers this evening that I do not think you will desire or expect me to say more than two or three sentences; and there is perhaps only one word that I can say, and no one who has spoken as yet could say, it so well, and that is that the Church in India, whose minister I am, shall throw herself into hearty co-operation with the charitable movement inaugurated at this meeting. And indeed, Sir, what object can be dearer to the Church of Christ in India than that, by her sympathy and hearty charity, she may alleviate the sorrows of the people. I promise you, Sir, that in all the churches in this diocese, and I hope beyond it, as is already done in Bombay, collections shall be made from the congregations of the Church of England in support of the Famine Relief Fund. The Church cannot perhaps do much, but I hope it will be said of her as of one in the Gospel that she hath done what she could, and she will do it now in the name of Him, who, as the Christians believe, is the Saviour of men's bodies as well as their souls, and who, being himself poor and destitute, and a Man of Sorrows, yet when He saw the hungered people around him, was moved with pity for their needs, and said to his disciples, as He says now, "Give ye them to eat."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, in supporting the resolution, said: Your Excellency,—The principle underlying the statement of objects has been fully explained. I only wish to draw attention to the great importance of the fourth object. Immense good was done on the last occasion in helping broken-down agriculturists who had been forced to eat their seed-grain and part with their plough cattle, and who, but for such help, would have lost their holdings, and gone to swell the ranks of landless labourers. Seventy-one per cent. of the fund was thus applied. In my province the percentage was higher, reaching eighty. Here three and-a-quarter lakhs of tenants were given a

fresh start in life by the fund, and it was estimated that about one and-a-half millions of acres of land were brought under the plough with this help, and which would otherwise have lain fallow. Apart from the benefit to the individuals thus relieved, the economic advantages to the country at large from these operations was incalculable. There is a much wider field for charity this time. The kharif in 1896 gave, in the seventeen distressed districts, a little less than a third of the average return. The rabi outturn ranged from a quarter to three-quarters. The kharif this year has been almost a wreck. As regards the rabi, such wholesale destruction as is to be seen just now in the fields, has not taken place within living memory. Added to these severe crop failures the people are face to face with a terrible water famine. With a rainfall in most places of about one third of the average, all sources of water supply are fast failing already, and what the state of things will be when the fierce heat of May will beat upon the land, one shudders to contemplate. The cattle mortality, which has already begun, will be something appalling. Already twice as many are on relief as during the worst days of the late famine. The maximum proportion of those on relief to the total population was eleven. It is now already thirteen. The highest percentage on relief in any one district last time was 2 . It is already 32 in one and 27 in another district. And the worst months are yet to come. In 1897 29 lakhs were given from the Charity Fund, and $15\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs as *tacavi*. With all this aid, the area put under crop in the 17 affected districts was less than the normal by nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres. This time not 20, but twice 20, lakhs could be most usefully spent. As regards the organization, the guiding principle in the formation of the local committee was to associate the official and non-official elements in harmonious co-operation. The former was needed to secure the help of the Government officers and the State relief organization, and to prevent the two systems of relief from over-lapping. The latter represented the intelligence and public spirit of the district. How economically and judiciously the fund was administered by these committees would appear from the fact that their office expenses were only 0·19 per cent. or $\frac{2}{3}$ of a pie per rupee. The whole of the rest of the fund was devoted to actual relief. My Lord, the same class of people, in fact the self-same men, ripened by their sad past experience, consider it an honour and a privilege to be permitted to give their humble services to Government in the gigantic efforts it is putting forth in its strugggle against starvation, and they will do their best to alleviate the sufferings of their sorely striken brethren under the stress of a calamity unprecedented in its severity and unparalleled in the history of the province.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Archbishop Goethals, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Viceroy for presiding, said Your Honour, ladies and gentlemen,—The last resolution on the roll of business which I have the honour to propose, is as gratifying to my own feelings as it is, I am sure, to yours; I mean the expression of our thanks to the President of this meeting, the Viceroy. It is always and all occasions, ladies and gentlemen, a great privilege to see His Excellency in the midst of us; but his presence is doubly welcome when we meet on questions concerning the good and welfare of this country, because we are sure that he will threw into the debate the light of his great talents, the weight of his vast experience, and above all, that determined will of his to do all that he possibly can for the good of the Indian Empire entrusted to his care. The eloquent and soul-stirring speech we have just listened to both illustrates and confirms my assertion. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I am merely giving vent to the feelings pent up in your breasts in proposing the resolution which stands under my name:—That a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to the Viceroy for presiding on this occasion, and for his kindly accepting the official Presidentship of the General Committee.

Raja Bun Behari Kapur, of Burdwan, in seconding the resolution, said: Your Excellency, your Honour, ladies and gentlemen,—I esteem it a high personal privilege to be allowed the honour of seconding this resolution. Our Viceroy has not only won the admiration of all classes of Her Majesty's Indian subjects by his brilliant intellectual culture, but he has, at the same time, secured their lasting gratitude by the exalted beneficence with which he has endeavoured, at a great personal sacrifice of time and comfort, to wrestle with and conquer the terrible famine with which India is at present visited. In carrying out this lofty conception of sympathetic duty, Lord Curzon is not only the respresentative, in the highest sense of the word, of the august Lady, whose Viceregent he is in India, but also of the great English people, who have again come forward in the hour of India's need to assist her with magnanimous generosity even at a time like this when all her resources, both public and private, are urgently needed for the successful prosecution of the great war in which she is at present engaged. My fellow-subjects in India have been greatly moved by this action on the part of England, and if I may be allowed to say so there is a binding force in this reciprocal and spontaneous sympathy, far stronger than any obligation which can ever be created by executive administration or legislative enactment. It is for this special reason, and because the Viceroy so fittingly represents and interprets, by his qualities both of head and heart, the sympathetic generosity of the English people and of our august Sovereign Lady, that we seek by this resolution to make some slight attempt to express to him our general appreciation of his earnest solicitude for the wefare of the people entrusted to his charge. An administration carried on to the end on these beneficent lines will enable him,

when the time arrives for his return to England, to lay the comforting assurance to his heart that "he wrought the people lasting good," and will have earned for him the priceless and reverential affection of Her Majesty's Indian subjects of every class and degree—a monument, infinitely more lasting and more honourable than any that can be symbolised out of marble or brass. Before sitting down, I desire to express the earnest wish that the generous appeal which has to-day been urged by the Viceroy, in such eloquent and touching words, may find an echo in the heart, not only of those present at the meeting but that it will also receive a ready response in every district of every province of India. England has already led in the van of this noble and charitable movement. Let all my fellow-countrymen be especially regardful that they may not fall behind the mother-country in this beneficent competition.

The Lieutenant-Governor then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was carried with acclamation.

The Viceroy's Reply.

The Viceroy, in acknowledging the vote of thanks said: Your Honour, ladies and gentlemen,—Allow me to thank you very warmly for the compliment that you have paid me by passing this vote of thanks. It was specially gratifying to me that the motion should have emanated from such an old citizen of Calcutta as Archibishop Goethals. That within a year after my coming to India I should have received from his lips a tribute so warm as that which he has been kind enough to pay me is, I can assure you, a source of the utmost gratification to me. He is, I belief, before long going to leave Calcutta. I only hope that it is to return and that we shall not lose his genial and popular presence in our midst. The motion for a vote of thanks to me was very eloquently seconded by Raja Ban Behari Kapur of Burdwan and I thank him for the words he used, although I think I would prefer to wait till the end of my five years to see if I deserve all the good things said about me instead of accepting them on the present occasion. It only remains for me to say that the confident hope I expressed in my former speech, that I might be able to make a further announcement before I left the room, of contributions has not been disappointed. Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore has given R10,000 to the fund; the Maharaja of Mymensing has given R5,000; and the Hon'ble Raja Ranajit Singh of Nashipore has given R20,000, and for all those who have not yet given, whether they sit behind me or sit before, I may remark that an excellent opportunity of showing that they are actuated by the same spirit which pervades the speeches of the speakers will be afforded them in the vestibule where, you cannot help seeing it, is a table, and on that table is a book and by that book is a pot of ink and a pen. Therefore—it is in the power of every person here as he passes that book to write down in it his actual practical financial testimony to the realising of this meeting. I may say that I propose to set an excellent example by writing in it myself. I hope that this example will be followed by others and that the words which have fallen from more than one speaker this afternoon might come to pass, and that in its realisation, this may be called a record meeting of the citizens of Calcutta. The first general meeting of the Committee will be held on the afternoon of the 19th instant in the Committee room of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

His Excellency, before leaving, entered his name in the book for R10,000, and also R1,000 for Lady Curzon.

The meeting then dispersed.

APPENDIX B.

Dated Viceregal Lodge, Simla, May 23rd, 1900.

FROM—His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Baron Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India,

To—The Right Hon'ble Sir Alfred James Newton, Lord Mayor, Mansion House, London.

We in India owe so much to you for your initiative,—most promptly and generously followed by Lord Mayors and Mayors in other cities and boroughs of the United Kingdom,—in starting at the Mansion House a branch of our Indian Famine Relief Fund, that I should like to send to you some account of the present condition of affairs, and of the purposes to which the liberal, but yet not too liberal, contributions that have so far reached us from home, are being put. Such an account may serve as an unsolicited reward of conscience to those who have already subscribed, and may perhaps act as an incentive to others who, from ignorance of the extent of our needs, or of the great value of their donations, however humble, have not yet responded to your appeal.

The statements that have appeared in the Press, both from the Secretary of State and myself, will already have acquainted the British public with the fact that we are struggling with a famine greater in its intensity over the areas afflicted, than any previously recorded visitation. I say greater, because, though fewer persons will, as I hope, die in this famine than in any previous drought, yet incomparably more persons are suffering, and are only being saved from death by the combined exertions of Government and of private effort, and because the loss of crops, and cattle, amounting to an almost complete denudation of the stricken area, are immeasurably greater in the present instance than in any previously recorded affliction.

It will be remembered in England that not dissimilar statements were made in respect of the famine of three years ago, which excited such wide-spread interest and provoked such a munificent response from all parts of the English-speaking world. How far the present position transcends that of 1897 may, however, be demonstrated by the following facts. The average annual rainfall of the Indian Continent, calculated upon data extending over the last 30 years, is 41 inches. In 1896, the deficiency was 5 inches. In 1899 (when the monsoon broke that regulated the harvests of 1900) the dificiency was 11 inches, or 27 per cent. Such a deficit is unparallelled in Indian records. In the middle of May 1897 an area of 205,000 square miles with a population of 40,000,000 persons was affected. In the middle of May 1900, the figures are 417,000, square miles (or nearly ¼ of the entire extent of the Indian Empire) and 54,000,000 persons. In May 1897 3,811,000 persons were in receipt of Government relief; in May 1900, the total relieved is 5,607,000. At the present moment, if we take the whole of the afflicted regions in British India, 15 per cent. of the entire population are being supported by Government (in many parts the proportion is nearly double); while the figures of Native States, which amount only to six per cent., will give an idea both of the anxiety with which we interpret our own obligations, and of the need for further assistance in parts of the country, which are not less suffering, but over whose administration we exercise a less immediate or perfect control. Nevertheless, while in the middle of May 1897 we had received a sum of £700,000 from the generosity of our fellow-subjects in the United Kingdom, up to the corresponding date in 1900 there has come from the same sources the sum of £370,000.

The special features which differentiate the present famine from its predecessors, other than those already described, are the absolute failure of the two last autumn and spring harvests, than which it is impossible to imagine anything more ruinous or complete; and the unprecedented loss of catttle in the Central and Western parts of India, which will render the task of recuperation more arduous than on any previous occasion.

The test of mortality is one to which, for the purposes of comparison, I gladly and even proudly abstain from referring, since the result of our efforts has been, so far, to reduce the figures on the present occasion to a lower level than has ever previously been attained. In many of the worst districts, such as the Central Provinces, the figures shew but a slight excess over the normal rates. In other but isolated areas, where the distress is acute, where thousands of destitute immigrants from Native States have streamed across the boundary, and where cholera and other diseases have attacked the frames already emaciated by privation, the death-rate is abnormally high. In some of the Native States, it is, I am afraid, shocking. In the total area of destitution, many thousands of persons must inevitably succumb if not to positive starvation, at any rate to the debility that is scarcely distinguishable therefrom.

If the question be asked why is Government not able to assume the entire burden, and to dispense with all external aid, no false pride need deter me from giving a frank reply. Government is straining every nerve, is pouring out its money, is shrinking from no obligation, however severe. From October 1899, the beginning of the famine, until December 1900, we anticipate that we shall have spent 5¼ millions sterling upon direct relief, two millions upon suspensions and remissions of Land Revenue, 1¼ millions

upon advances (that will in many cases never be recovered) for the purchase of seed and cattle; ¾ million upon loans to distressed Native States. But over and above this expenditure, which cripples our development in a score of ways, there lies a vast area of need which, do what we may, we can barely reach, and in which extraneous contributions supply an invaluable reinforcement. I may instance the relief of the aged and infirm, of sick patients in the hospitals, of children and orphans, of those men and women who will endure almost any privation sooner than submit themselves to the quasi-publicity of Government relief. This is a field of enormous and almost undiscoverable extent, the margin of which the already over-worked official hardly touches, but which is, in a peculiar and inevitable degree, the property of individual effort and of private generosity.

Already the Famine Relief Committee has dispensed, with an admirable promptitude, the sum of over £500,000; and, fast as the money may come in, not more swiftly is it diverted and distributed into the various channels of relief. Here we have no cast-iron or official system. The unit of relief-organisation is the District Committee, in which the non-official element almost invariably predominates. Officials and non-officials, Europeans and Natives, Christian, Missionaries and orthodox Brahmans,—we welcome the co-operation of all, since all are enlisted in the same catholic service of the relief of human suffering.

I should add that many of the British Colonies, and outlying stations of British influence or commerce, among which I may especially mention the Straits Settlements and China, are coming liberally to our assistance. The generosity of Germany, acting upon the noble initiative of the German Emperor, has already been recorded; while the latest news that reaches me testifies to a similar outburst of practical sympathy in the United States of America.

It occurs to me that a *resumé* of our needs, and of our proceedings up to date, such as I have here supplied, may be of assistance to Your Lordship in your appeal to British munificence. The old friends of India, the great business-houses, and many a congregation and individual, have rallied splendidly to our aid. But there must also be many a man and woman in Great Britain and Ireland, whose heart has perhaps not yet fully awakened to the glories and the responsibilities of our Indian Empire, or who is not wholly aware of the extremity of our need, who can yet, from a modest competence, spare a few pounds—in some cases it may even be less—and who may, in so doing, feel the honourable satisfaction of having assisted to save from the saddest of deaths, and to start again in what is at no time the brightest of lives, our suffering fellow-subjects and creatures in the Indian Empire of the Queen.

Dated The Mansion House, London, August 8th, 1900.

FROM—The Right Hon'ble Sir Alfred James Newton, Lord Mayor,

To—His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Baron Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

On the eve of taking my holiday, I have been overlooking my arrears of correspondence, and find that, awaiting a favourable opportunity, I have not previously acknowledged the receipt of your correspondence. The instructions and suggestions contained in your letters were, however, promptly acted upon, and the Lord Mayors, Lord Provosts and Mayors throughout the Kingdom were immediately put in possession of the facts and figures in respect of the Indian Famine, with which you were good enough to make me acquainted.

Up to this date the amount collected at the Mansion House on behalf of your fund amounts to £345,600, of which I have remitted £340,200.

The cost of advertising is necessarily expensive, but it is imperative to publicly acknowledge every donation.

In addition to the sums remitted direct by me, there have been collections made in other large towns, notably Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, &c., &c., which centres have forwarded their contributions direct to India.

Compared with the Mansion House collection of 1897, that for the present year is unfavourable, but it must be borne in mind that in 1897 the Indian Famine Fund was the only collection the then Lord Mayor (Sir George Faudel-Phillips, G.C.I.E.) had in hand, whereas this year the demands on the benevolent and charitable have been very numerous, notably the Transvaal War Fund for which close upon one million sterling has been received.

By means of daily communications to the Press I am taking every opportunity of keeping your necessities before the Public, and I need scarcely say that all information bearing upon the subject, from you direct or through the India Office, I endeavour to make the best use of with a view to relieving the distress which so direly affects India.

You have our warmest sympathy in the terrible experiences you are undergoing—experiences which we all devoutly hope are now coming to an end.

APPENDIX C.

Extracts from Proceedings of the Council of the Governor-General of India assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations at the Viceregal Lodge, Semla, on the 20th October 1899 and the 19th October 1900.

On October 20th, 1899, the Hon'ble MR. Rivaz said:—"Before the Government of India leave Simla and re-assemble in Calcutta, the Governor General in Council considers it desirable to place before the public such information as to the probable character and extent of the approaching distress, and as to the measures taken to meet it, as is at present available. A similar forecast was made in October, 1896, when the failure of the south-west monsoon made scarcity or famine over the greater part of India inevitable. Early in August last the weakness and fitfulness of the monsoon current led the Government of India to request Local Governments to place before them by the end of September full reports on the agricultural situation, and to include in these reports an estimate of the amount of relief which might be required in the event of unfavourable conditions continuing. Similar information was at the same time called for from Political Officers in respect of Native States. These reports have been received and examined in the light of the latest further intelligence as to rainfall, harvest prospects and prices. The reports are exceptionally full and clear, and the Governor General in Council is under obligation to the Local Governments and Political Officers for the care with which they have placed before him the chief feature of a serious and critical situation.

"It is difficult at this early stage to institute a close comparison between the circumstances created in 1896 by the failure of the rains and the circumstances now existing. The present situation has this important point in its favour that the great and populous province of Bengal, and fully half, if not three-fourths, of the great and populous province of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, have good or fair rain crops, and fairly good prospects for the ensuing cold weather, and, save for the pressure of high prices on the labouring and urban classes, are practically outside the region of anxiety. This tract is the most densely inhabited and the most highly cultivated in India, and contains a population, roughly speaking, of 100 million souls. It is a matter of profound satisfaction that in this vast area the present outlook is immeasurably better than was the outlook in October, 1896, and that here at all events the food production of the year will be in excess of the requirements of the population. With Bengal and the Eastern Section of the North-Western Provinces may be ranked Burma, where a bumper rice crop is on the ground; Madras, where rain has fallen widely and most opportunely; and the Native State of Mysore. In all these the outlook at present is much more favourable than in 1896. To the absolutely secure area may be added, as in 1896, Sindh and the South-West Punjab which rely wholly on canal irrigation from the perennial snow-fed rivers of the Himalayas.

"The second group comprises those Provinces, Districts, or States where prospects are mediocre, though marked failure of crops or general distress is not anticipated. In this group may be placed the South Mahratta and South Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency, a large part of the Nizam's Dominions, the greater portion of the Central India Agency, the western half of the North-Western Provinces and the northern and submontane districts of the Punjab. In the three tracts last enumerated much will depend on the extent to which sowings for the winter crop may be found practicable. At present sowings on unirrigated lands are in these tracts impeded by the exceptional dryness of the soil. But the area commanded by wells and canals is very large, and if an inch of rain should fortunately fall between now and the 15th November in Central India and the western districts of the North-Western Provinces, and up to a much later date in the Northern Punjab, sowings outside the irrigated area would be undertaken. On the whole, a comparison of the existing situation in the tracts forming the second group with the situation there in 1896 is favourable to the present year.

"The last group comprises the seriously affected area in which scarcity or famine conditions either already exist or must be expected. This area is unhappily large. It comprises about 100,000 square miles in British territory, with a population of 15 millions, and about 250,000 square miles in Native territory, with a population also of about 15 millions. In 1896 the seriously affected area comprised about 200,000 square miles in British India, with a population of 45 millions, and 80,000 square miles in Native States, with a population of seven millions. It includes about $\frac{5}{6}$ths of the Central Provinces, nearly the whole of the Berars, the North Deccan and Guzerat in the Bombay Presidency, and the South-East and Central Punjab. It further includes the territories of large and important Native States in Central and Western India. The large group of Native States in North Bombay, the Baroda State, the greater part of the Indore State, and virtually the whole of Rajputana, and some minor States in Central India, are very seriously affected. In this great expanse of Native territory between the Sutlej and the Nerbudda, pasturage has failed for the herds which largely represent the wealth of these States, and great losses of agricultural stock are inevitable. Fortunately, the population is camparatively sparse. In extent and intensity the present drought in Rajputana and North Bombay equals, if indeed it does not exceed, the memorable drought

of 1868, the year which affords the nearest parallel to the present year within this century. In the British Districts of Guzerat scarcity of water and fodder is also great, and though great exertions to import fodder and to provide central relief camps for cattle on the banks of rivers are being made by the Bombay Government, much loss, it is feared, will befall the agiculturists. Otherwise, the districts of Guzerat are better fitted by their wealth and prosperity than almost any other part of India to tide successfully over the difficulties caused by a loss of the year's harvests. The failure of the rain crops in the Central Provinces is probably not as great as in 1896, but it is feared that unless rain speedily comes, the prospects of a cold weather crop will be poor. The gravity of the situation here is much increased by the depressed condition of the population, which has not recovered from the disasters of the great famine of 1896-98. The South-East Punjab, especially the districts of Hissar, Gurgaon and Rohtak, which were affected by the drought of 1896-97, are again affected, and in a worse degree. Conditions here are similar to those existing in Rajputana, and great loss of cattle is anticipated.

"The net result of these comparisions is that a much smaller area and population in British India are this year seriously affected, and a much larger area and population in Native States, as compared with the affected area and population in 1896-97. The total population of the area in which the harvests are seriously deficient in British and Native territory may be put at 30 millions against 52 millions in 1896-97. There is no reasonable doubt as to the sufficiency of the food stocks of India as a whole for the requirements of the country up to July next, when the rains of 1900 will, it is hoped, be established. How far the existing stocks will be replenished by the outturn of the cold weather crops is a matter of uncertainty, as the outturn will depend on the presence or absence of rain during the next three months. But in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab the perennial canals may be relied on to irrigate 4½ million acres, and the area protected by wells in both provinces is also very large. Even assuming that no rain falls in these provinces in time to aid the cold weather sowings, the crops raised with the help of irrigation in the driest districts will be very considerable, and there is besides a great and fertile area especially adapted for cold weather crops between the eastern borders of Bihar and the western confines of Oudh, where the soil has retained sufficient moisture to admit of sowings generally. The stimulus which the high prices of a year of scarcity give to cultigation in India, wherever cultivation is possible, was strikingly illustrated in 1896-97, and it is quite certain that, however adverse the coming season as regards rain may be, the same influence will operate to bring every possible acre of land under a winter crop of some kind.

"Prices of grain in the famine affected tracts, and indeed throughout India, have risen very much, and are now as high as they were in October, 1896.

"It is probable that, as in 1896, the extreme limit has already in most places been reached, and that as panic and speculation abate, and the possibilities of importing wheat and maize from America and other countries (to say nothing of rice from Burma and Bengal) are more fully recognized by the trade, a decline will set in. It is a significant fact that a considerable quantity of foreign wheat has already been sold to up-country buyers in the Calcutta market at a rate which would enable it to be laid down at Ajmer in the very heart of Rajputana, at the price of 16lbs., or 8 seers, the rupee. At the close of the famine of 1896-97 the American maize received by the Indian Charitable Relief Fund Committee from the United States was very highly thought of and eagerly accepted by the people in the Central Provinces and the Punjab. There would seem to be a good opening for the importation this year of maize in large quantities on remunerative terms, and there is a large market for it in many parts of the country.

"It is scarcely necessary to say that the Government of India will adhere to their policy of absolute abstention from any interference with private trade in the matter of grain imports from abroad. The wisdom of this policy was thoroughly established in the famine of 1896-97. It is also anticipated that, as in 1896-97, the internal trade of the country will be fully equal to supplying local requirements throughout British India. The extreme activity of the grain traffic on every railway at the present moment is the best evidence of this. In the Rajputana famine of 1868 the cost of carrying grain from Agra to Ajmer was Rs 2-4-0 the maund. The sole means of conveyance was by camels, and even camels failed. The cost of railway carriage between these places is now only two or three annas the maund. In 1868 the Rajputana-Malwa Railway was not built, and in Jodhpore and Meywar there was absolute dearth of food. The South-East Punjab was similarly unprotected. The railway map of India for the present year will show how totally conditions in these regions have changed. So far as the Government of India are aware, no Native State has expressed apprehension that food will not be obtainable in its territories, or that private trade will be unequal to the task of importing whatever quantity is needed.

"The estimates of expenditure on direct relief returned by the Local Governments point to a probable outlay of one crore or 1½ crores of rupees up to the 31st March, 1900. These estimates have to be received with all caution, as it is too early to foresee how events will run. There will be further outlay on account of loans and advances to agriculturists. On the receipt side of the account the land-revenue collections will necessarily show some falling off. On the other hand, there will be increased railway earnings and increased irrigation receipts.

"The principles and practice of famine relief are now so generally known that it is

unnecessary to explain them in detail. The Famine Commission which sat last year, while making a number of useful suggestions on minor points, had to admit that the general method of relief procedure had stood the test of practice. The Famine Commission's recommendations have not yet been formally embodied in the local Famine Codes, but they have been for some time under the consideration of Local Governments, and in many respects they are being acted on. In all the Provinces relief organization is complete and ready to cope with distress, as distress becomes apparent. According to the latest reports 63,000 persons are on relief in Bombay, 71,000 in the Punjab, 121,000 in the Central Provinces, 28,000 in Berar, and 70,000 in Ajmer-Merwara. In all, 250,000 in British India. In October, 1896, the number of persons on relief was only 50,000. The difference in numbers is due partly to the earlier date at which distress has unmistakeably declared itself, but in a large measure also to the greater vigilance and promptitude engendered by the experiences of 1896-97.

"With regard to Native States, the primary responsibility for affording relief to their subjects rests with the Rulers. They have to assist them in the discharge of this responsibility, a simplified edition of the Famine Codes of British India, and the friendly help and advice of the Residents and Political Officers. The larger Native States have competent engineers in their employ, who can undertake the supervision of any important public works undertaken for relief purposes. The Government of India have volunteered the loan of any other officers who may be needed to supervise relief measures, and have offered to assist with loans of money any State in Rajputana whose resources are unequal to the strain of famine relief. From the reports which have reached him the Governor General in Council feels assured that in Rajputana and elsewhere the ruling Chiefs of Native States fully recognize the exceptional responsibilities devolving on them, and are animated with an earnest wish to succour their people."

His Excellency the Viceroy said:—"I should like to supplement the detailed statement to which we have just listened from the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue and Agricultural Department by a few observations of a more general character upon the attitude and policy of Government. It has been a source of great distress to me—and my feelings in this respect are those of all my Colleagues—that in my first year of office, while plague, the first great Indian scourge, has remained a persistent visitor, the second, which is famine, should once again be threatening this sorely tried country and its patient and unmurmuring population. For months past it is no exaggeration to say that the daily meteorological report has been to everyone of us, who are in our different spheres responsible for Indian Government, the document to which we have turned with the most anxious interest each morning; and day by day as we have contemplated a sky of brass and an unclouded sun, we have longed bitterly, and would have sacrificed much, for the sight that met the watcher upon Carmel, of the little cloud no bigger than a man's hand.

"If, in our regrets at the ill fortune that has attended us, we may nevertheless recognize some grounds of legitimate alleviation, they will consist in the facts that we had upon the present occasion long warning of the coming scarcity, and have, in consequence, been able to formulate our plans of campaign in advance; and, secondly, that while the area of certain distress is unfortunately large—much too large—it is yet considerably smaller than the corresponding area in the famine of 1896-97, and, if Providence should favour us with late autumnal rains, is still capable of contraction. In Rajputana it is to be feared that the suffering will be in excess of any since the sad year of 1868-69; and in the Central Provinces, I regret to think that a portion of the ordeal of three years ago may again have to be endured by the same poor people who have barely had time to recover from the last shock. But elsewhere, as Mr. Rivaz has shown, the situation, though grave, affords less ground for acute apprehension; while in many parts of India the sufferings of the unfortunates elsewhere will, to some extent, be balanced by exceptionally favourable conditions.

"The narrowness and the comparatively precise definition of the areas affected should enable us to devote our energies to their relief with all the greater concentration. I do not pretend that, in so doing, we have any novel or startling methods of procedure to announce. Perhaps the worst and least re-assuring declaration that a Viceroy could make upon an occasion like this would be that the Government of India proposed to experiment in respect of scarcity and famine. Our proceedings must be, and will be, founded upon the very opposite extreme of principle. All that we have acquired from the recorded observations of a century; all that we have learned from the experience of the past 25 years, during which India has three times been visited by serious famines; all that we have been advised or warned by the recent Famine Commission: these must be the bases of our action. They will furnish the pocket-book for field service, with which our soldiers of peace will enter upon their humane and bloodless campaign.

"If I be asked to summarise the action which it is in the power of the Government of India to take against famine, in respect either of executive intervention, of sympathetic assistance, or of local control, I would make the following reply. In our own territories we have a fourfold scheme of operation: in the larger villages and towns, we open poor-houses for the reception and sustenance of the famishing waifs and strays; in the country hamlets, we distribute gratuitous relief, weekly or fortnightly, to the sick and aged, the widow and the orphan; we employ tens of thousands of impoverished but willing hands upon relief works, the making of roads, the digging of tanks, the construction of embankments for future lines of railway. The Hon'ble Member has in his speech given you

some idea of the numbers who are already thus engaged; and they represent but a small fraction of the total for whom our existing organization would enable us, with scarcely a hitch, to provide paid employment of this character, should the emergency arise. Finally, by the appointment of special officers, selected for their training or experience, we supplement the existing staff, and endeavour both to supply a stimulus, and to strengthen local supervision.

"These are our more immediate measures. Prospectively, we always have in contemplation *tacavi* advances, to enable the peasant to sow his seed before the next rains, and—that ultimate stand-by of the distressed agriculturist in all lands—remission of rent, or as we call it in India, land revenue. I do not think that in any period of scarcity or famine, the Government of India has shown an inclination to be ungenerous in those particulars.

"If we turn to the situation as it affects Native States, we are necessarily upon somewhat different ground. Here we must be careful to do nothing that would diminish the responsibility or slacken the energies of the Native Chiefs and Durbars. The Government of India should not step in either to usurp their proper functions, or to relieve them of an obligatory duty. On the other hand, we may do much, and in the case of Rajputana we are endeavouring to do much, by the loan of officers, and by the offer of expert advice to systematize and to co-ordinate local action. We can further help Native States with loans from the Imperial Exchequer; and I believe that my Hon'ble Colleague, the Finance Member, is prepared to show a far from obdurate disposition in this respect; and we may, by individual acts of assistance or relief, contribute to lessen the strain. For instance, I may mention that a little while ago I offered to remove, and to maintain at the expense of the Government of India, one of the two Imperial Service Cavalry Regiments of Jodhpore during the present and forthcoming distress; and that this offer was gladly accepted by the State.

"May I venture to add that there must be many localities—populous districts or large cities in which men of substance reside—where some local effort for the assistance of their suffering countrymen would be most acceptable. I have already heard of such private charity having been started in some cases—of a local Famine Relief Fund, of a subscription list, and of a Committee of Distribution. There are large classes of the native population who are not touched either by relief works or by gratuitous relief; but who may be saved from perishing by the timely exercise of such philanthropy. In detailing the liberal and sustained plan of action with which the Government of India is prepared to meet the emergency, I feel that I have a peculiar right to call also upon India's own sons to come to her rescue in the hour of her trial.

"My own knowledge of Famine Work and Famine Relief is necessarily at present, owing to the short time which I have spent in the country, only in an incipient stage. May I add that I propose to invest it, in so far as I can, with a more practical and beneficial complexion, by visiting in the course of my forthcoming tour a large number of the principal areas of distress in Northern and Central India. The experience, which I shall thereby gain may, I hope, enable me both to render useful help on a future occasion, should such arise, and to enter more closely into the sorrows, as well as the joys, of the Indian people."

On October 19th, 1900, before proceeding with the business of the Council, His Excellency the President made the following statement:

STATEMENT ON FAMINE.

"Exactly a year ago to-day I made a speech in this Council upon the then impending famine. Throughout the twelve months that have intervened, this famine, which within the range of its incidence has been the severest that India has ever known, has been the main pre-occupation of Government. It has engrossed our whole attention, has placed a terrible strain both upon our resources and our officials, has disorganised our finances, and has addressed a perpetual and irresistible appeal to our individual humanity. Now that it is drawing to a close, it may not be inappropriate that I should attempt to sum up the results of the past year's experience; so that the public may realise within a short compass what the great famine of 1899-1900 has meant, how we have endeavoured to meet it, what a mark it has left, or will leave, upon the history of the country, and what is the teaching that may be derived from a study of its features.

"We cannot, I think, be accused of having failed to anticipate or to provide for this great drought. Our anxiety as to the prospects dated from as far back as July, 1899. In the early autumn the Local Governments and ourselves were busily occupied in making preparations for the possible failure of the monsoon. When I spoke in October, relief-operations had already commenced, and half a million persons were on relief. The numbers rapidly rose month by month, till in July last they touched the unprecedented total of considerably more than six millions of persons. Even now over two millions are still in receipt of relief; though we hope that, in course of next month, the necessity may disappear, and that the whole of this number may be drafted away to their homes.

"The main statistical features of the famine are already sufficiently well known and may be briefly dismissed. It has affected an area of over 400,000 square miles, and a population of about 60 millions, of whom 25 millions belong to British India and the

remainder to Native States. Within this area the famine conditions have, during the greater part of the year, been intense. Outside it they have extended with a gradually dwindling radius over wide districts which have suffered much from loss of crops and cattle, if not from actual scarcity. In a greater or less degree nearly one-fourth of the entire population of the Indian Continent have come within the range of relief-operations. It is difficult to express in figures with any close degree of accuracy the loss occasioned by so widespread and severe a visitation. But it may be roughly put in this way. The annual agricultural production of India and Burma averages in value between 300 and 400 crores of rupees. On a very cautious estimate the production in 1899-1900 must have been at least one-quarter, if not one-third, below the average. At normal prices the loss was at least 75 crores, or fifty millions sterling. In this estimate India is treated as a whole. But in reality the loss fell on a portion only of the Continent, and ranged from almost total failure of crop in Guzarat, Berar, Chhattisgarh and Hissar, and in many of the Rajputana States to 20 and 30 per cent. in districts of the North-Western Provinces and Madras, which are not reckoned as falling within the famine tract. If to this be added the value of some millions of cattle, some conception may be formed of the destruction of property which a great drought occasions. There have been many great droughts in India, but there has been no other of which such figures could be predicated as these.

"It must further be remembered that, unlike previous famines, that of 1900 was separated by the short space of only two years from a drought not greatly inferior to it in extent and scarcity. Some tracts which suffered in 1896-97 have been fortunate enough to escape in 1899-1900. But the most calamitous feature of the recent famine has been that there were others which not only suffered again, but suffered in a worse degree. This was the case in the Central Provinces and in portions of Rajputana, Central India, the South East Punjab, and the Bombay Dekkhan. Apart from this area of twofold distress, the centre of gravity tended on the present occasion to shift towards the west. The cluster of Native States lying between the Nerbudda, the Jumna and the Sutlej were swept into the area of scarcity. Finally, the fertile provinces of Guzarat and Kathiawar, whose rainfall is generally so abundant and so steady that they have been styled the Garden of India, were attacked; and there, in proportion as the immunity hitherto enjoyed has been the longest, so was the suffering the most widespread and enduring.

"This was the situation with which we were confronted a year ago, and which has gradually developed since. It was not merely a crop failure, but a fodder famine on an enormous scale, followed in many parts by a positive devastation of cattle, both plough-cattle, buffaloes, and milch kine. In other words, it affected, and may almost be said to have annihilated, the working capital of the agricultural classes. It struck some of them when they were still down from the effects of the recent shock. It struck others who had never before known what calamity was, and who were crushed and shattered by the suddenness and directness of the blow. It attacked Native States to whose Durbars had never previously been brought home the obligation of famine relief on an extended scale, and whose dearth of administrative staff was enhanced by the proverty of their financial resources. It laid its hand upon primitive hill men, unused to discipline or restraint, impulsive, improvident, lazy, living in an almost barbarous state in wild and inaccessible jungles. It sharpened the lurking nomadic instinct of wandering tribes, and sent them aimlessly drifting about the country, a terror to the famine officer, and an incubus to the camps. For a year it never left hold of its victims; and one half of the year had not elapsed before famine had brought its familiar attendant Furies in its train; and cholera, dysentery and fever had fallen upon an already exhausted and enfeebled population. This is the picture of suffering that India has presented during the past year. Let us now examine the steps that have been taken to ameliorate it.

"In such diverse circumstances the methods of relief, the difficulties encountered, and the degree of success attained, have varied greatly. The preceding famine had bequeathed experiences and lessons of the utmost value, which were carefully gathered up by the Commission of 1898, and which have profoundly affected the policy of the present famine. The stress laid by the Commission on the necessity for starting relief before the people have run down; their advocacy of more extensive gratuitous relief, especially in the form of kitchen relief; their recommendations concerning the special treatment of aboriginal and forest tribes; their approval of small or village relief-works in special circumstances in preferences to large works,—these and other injunctions will be found to have influenced our measures and shaped our course throughout the Famine. The Commission's recommendations were generally in the direction of greater flexibility in relief methods and greater liberality of relief. The dangers of ill-regulated profusion are obvious; and, apart from all considerations of cost, it would be a national misfortune if relief were ever made so facile or so pleasant as to destroy the self-respect and self-reliance of the people. But the Commission were not unmindful of this danger; and their findings amounted to this, that they recognised that in the last famine we had not succeeded in preventing great mortality and suffering, and that they thought better results might be attainable by a larger expenditure of money and a somewhat greater regard to the circumstances of special localities and classes. They said in effect that, if it was good policy to combat a famine, it was good policy to combat it effectively. It is possible that in certain directions their recommendations erred on the side of over-liberality. Their wage-scale is an instance. It was tried in all provinces at the

commencement of the present famine, but was speedily reduced by the independent consent of all Local Governments. Again, their advocacy of gratuitous relief may be said by some to have led in the present famine to a scale of alms-giving unprecedented in magnitude and likely to embarrass future Famine administration. This question I will discuss in a moment. I merely mention the matter now to show that, in the present Famine, we have broken new ground, and acting upon the lessons of its predecessor, have accepted a higher standard of moral and financial obligation than has ever before been recognised or acted upon in this or any country.

"If, indeed, a special characteristic should be attributed to our campaign of famine relief in the past year, it has been its unprecedented liberality. There is no parallel in the history of India, or in that of any country in the world, to the total of over six million persons who, in British India and the Native States, have for weeks on end been dependent upon the charity of Government. Let me compare these figures with those of the preceding famine. In 1897 the high-water mark of relief was reached in the second fortnight of May, when there were nearly four million persons on relief in British India. Taking the affected population of 40 millions, the ratio of relief was ten per cent. In one district of Madras and in two districts of the North-Western Provinces, the ratio for some months was about 30 per cent.; but these were exceptional cases. In the most distressed districts of the Central Provinces 15 or 16 per cent. was regarded in 1896-97 as a very high standard of relief. Now, take the figures of the present year. For some weeks in June and July upwards of 4½ million persons were on relief in British India. Reckoned on a population of, say, 25 millions, the ratio of relief was 18 per cent. as compared with ten per cent. in 1897. In many districts the proportion exceeded 20 per cent. In several it exceeded 30 per cent. In two districts it exceeded 40 per cent. In the small district of Marwara, where famine has been present for two years, 75 per cent. of the population has been on relief. Nothing that I might say can intensify the simple eloquence of these figures.

"The next test that I apply is that of the number of officers whom we have lent, both to British districts and to Native States, to re-inforce the overworked and, in many cases, undermanned local establishments. From the Army 84 Staff Corps officers, 17 Native officers, ten British non-commissioned officers and privates, and 228 Native non-commissioned officers and privates, have been deputed for periods of various length, to famine duty in British India and Native States. They have done excellent work. Including the above, the total number of public officials deputed from civil and military employ to famine duty has amounted to 637. Among these were 35 Assistant Surgeons and 141 Hospital Assistants, 44 Civil Engineers, ten Royal Engineers and 24 Public Works subordinates. Large as these numbers were, we would gladly have sent more, had the men been forthcoming. Since the famine began, I cannot recall ever having refused an application, if it was possible to grant it. We literally scoured the remaining provinces of India for the loan of men, and with great generosity, wherever practicable, their Governments responded to the appeal. After my return from Guzarat, we collected and sent down a large number of additional Hospital Assistants, of whom I had noted a regrettable paucity, to Bombay. Similarly in the Native States, as the Chiefs and Durbars have repeatedly acknowledged, it has only been owing to the administrative knowledge, the unflagging energy, and the devotion of the British officers whom we have lent to them that they have escaped a disastrous breakdown.

"My third test is that of financial outlay. The direct expenditure on Famine relief in British India and in Berar, from the commencement of relief-operations up to the end of August has been 854 lakhs of rupees. We estimate a further expenditure of about 150 lakhs up to the 31st March next, making in all in round numbers about ten crores of rupees. In loans and advances to land-holders and cultivators, we have expended R238 lakhs. We have made advances for plough-cattle and for agricultural operations this autumn free of interest, and on very easy terms as to eventual repayment; and our expectation is that not more than one-half will be recovered. In the matter of land-revenue, our latest estimate is that, of a demand of R 392 lakhs in the Central Provinces and Bombay, R164 lakhs will be uncollected during the year. In the distressed districts of the Punjab, suspensions aggregating R 41 lakhs are anticipated. With these figures I compare those for the Famine of 1896-97, calling attention, however, to the fact that, in 1896-97, the area and population in British India affected by famine were considerably larger than in the present year. The total direct expenditure on famine relief was 727 lakhs of rupees; 130 lakhs were advanced as *tacavi*; and land-revenue to the amount of about two crores was suspended. In this comparison, our further outlay in connection with relief in Native States has been omitted, for the reason that, in 1896-97, the calls upon us in that respect were insignificant. In the present Famine, our loans to Native States in Rajputana have amounted to 69 lakhs of rupees: to Native States in the Bombay Presidency we have lent 78 lakhs of rupees, besides guaranteeing the repayment of loans to the amount of 105 lakhs of rupees borrowed by other States in the market. We have also come to the assistance of the Nizam of Hyderabad, whose extensive dominions have suffered from severe drought. In all our actual loans to Native rulers in connection with the present famine amount in the aggregate to over 3½ crores. This is exclusive of the guaranteed loans. Without this assistance it may be safely said that the States would have been wholly unequal to the task of relieving their subjects, and even in some cases of carrying on the ordinary administration of their territories.

"I now pass to an examination of the methods of famine relief which we have adopted. In one respect they have differed materially from those of the preceding famine. Profiting by its lessons, we have learned to apply a much more flexible system. Thus in 1897 the effective relief of the aboriginal races in the Central Provinces was regarded as an insoluble problem. They suffered and perished in their jungles. This year congenial work and extensive gratuitous relief were provided for them in the forests, and the Gonds and Baigas have survived with no exceptional mortality. Again, whereas in 1897 there was a terrible mortality in the Central Provinces when the rains set in, owing to the abrupt closing of relief works without a simultaneous expansion of home or village relief, in the present year we have scattered broadcast over the country an extensive system of kitchen relief upon which, while no one disputes its general necessity or its success, the only criticism that has been passed is that it has erred on the side of liberality, and has been abused by able-bodied persons who preferred to be fed for nothing in the kitchens to earning their own livelihood in the fields. In 1897, the complaint was one of parsimony and lack of preparation. If we have now in some cases gone too far in the opposite direction, some allowance must be made for the natural recoil from earlier mistakes.

"Guzarat supplies another instance of the degree in which we have accentuated and added to the flexibility of the Famine Code. When the great outbreak of cholera had disorganised the large relief works, and had driven the terified workers away to their homes, and when extraordinarily high death-rates revealed the existence of very widespread destitution and suffering, the Government of India did not hesitate to advise the Bombay Government to meet the situation by enlarging the customary bounds of gratuitous relief, and by opening petty village works to take the place of the deserted Public Works relief-camps. The effect of this policy was that, whereas in the middle of May the number of persons on gratuitous relief in the five districts of Guzarat was little more than 50,000, at the end of June it had risen to 150,000: at the end of July to 308,000: and by the middle of August to 385,000, the last figure representing more than 12 per cent. of the entire population of those districts. Before the present famine, such a percentage would have been regarded as a flagrant abuse of famine relief. We were, however, satisfied that a strict adherence to the labour test principle would in June and July last have failed to meet the very special set of circumstances created by the cholera outbreak in Guzarat, and I have no doubt that the satisfactory decline in the death-rate was largely due to the policy adopted.

"In drawing attention, however, to the greater liberality of relief that has been practised, the question may be asked whether it was after all only due to the superior intensity of this year's famine, or whether it has denoted greater efficiency and perfection of method, or has perhaps only been the result of promiscuous and thoughtless charity. Some part of it must no doubt be attributed to the greater severity of the recent distress which I have already demonstrated. Upon the second head we may safely claim to have profited by experience in the improvement of our relief-arrangements, and in their more accurate adaptation to the special circumstances of different districts, the special requirements of different classes, and the different seasons of the year. No critic would dispute this proposition. As regards the third point it is not without a smile that, while I now read in some quarters that the conditions of relief, notably in respect of kitchen relief in the Central Provinces, have been relaxed to a dangerous and demoralising degree, I remember that, nine months ago, the Government of India were being assailed for the alleged stringency and harshness of the warnings that they had given in the Circular of December, 1899. Looking back upon our entire experience, I have now no hesitation in saying that our warning note was well-timed and was wisely issued. Our enquiry was followed by a very salutary re-organization of relief-works in the Central Provinces and elsewhere, by large additions in all provinces to the superior famine staff, and by considerable improvements in the supervision and conduct of relief-measures. One of its results was the exposure of inadequacy of the superior staff, and of the dangers which were certain to ensue if this were not rectified. It was in consequence of this discovery that we offered the substantial help, in respect of Staff Corps officers, Medical officers, officers drafted from the Postal, Salt and Police Departments, and Engineers, of which I have already spoken.

"I should like to add that, in my opinion, there was no inconsistency between the position taken up by the Government of India in the first months of the famine, and their subsequent attitude in permitting a vast expansion of gratuitous relief during the rains in the Central Provinces, and in counselling the Government of Bombay to relax the conditions of relief in Guzarat, when cholera had disorganized the large works. Conditions are radically different at the beginning and at the height of a Famine: and a degree of firmness at the outset is essential which would, at a later stage, be altogether out of place. If this be borne in mind, our policy will on examination prove to have been consistent throughout. On the one hand, we have set our face against indiscriminate and pauperising charity, and have endeavoured to insist on relief being administered with the care and method which we owe to the tax-payer and to the exchequer. On the other hand we have been prepared to accept any expenditure of which it could be shown that it was required to save life or to mitigate genuine distress. The only intelligent and the only possible policy is based on these two principles. There is no contradiction between them. No famine has ever been, or ever will be, successfully administered that does not exhibit, according to the point from which it is scrutinised, the opposite characteristics of

strictness and leniency, or that is not open to the charge—if charges are to be brought—of being at different moments profuse and grudging.

"Nevertheless, we may still be asked whether we are quite satisfied that the abnormal mortality in Guzarat, the widespread misery described by competent observers, and the temporary breakdown of the relief-machinery in that part were not due to any fault in our initial instructions. That the mortality was very great cannot be denied. In Broach the monthly death-rate rose from 2·96 *per mille* in October, 1899, to 24·83 in May, 1900. In the Panch Mahals the death-rate for the same month of May was 46·60 *per mille*; in Kaira 21·07; in Ahmedabad 24 These rates include deaths from cholera, a most virulent wave of which swept over Guzarat in April; although it is impossible to distinguish accurately between the mortality for which cholera was directly responsible, and that which was due to other diseases, to debility, to privations, and to the temporary disorganisation of the camps. I have seen the report of a special enquiry which has just been conducted into the Guzarat mortality by the Sanitary Commissioner to the Bombay Government. He specifies no fewer than eight causes for the excessive death-rate in that district. They were insufficient and unwholesome food; resort to Rangoon rice and other unaccustomed grains; bad cooking and bad water; the physical softness of a people who had never previously experienced famine; the unwillingness of certain classes, such as the Bhils and herdsmen, to apply for relief; and the vagabond instincts of large sections of the population. Some of these causes were preventible or reducible; the majority were not. If a perfect relief-system is anywhere attainable, it is obvious that it is more likely to be realised in a district where the people are already accquainted with the principles of relief, and where they feel no natural reluctance to avail themselves of it. Neither of those conditions was present in Guzarat. The rapidity and completeness of the calamity took the people by surprise; the weakness and incapacity for resistance of the people took the Local Government by surprise. Had there been greater previous experience in either respect, the results might have been modified. The failure was certainly not due to any antecedent orders on the part of Government, or to any parsimony in the scheme of relief. On the contrary, the actual cost of relief per head in Bombay exceeded the cost-rate in other parts of India. While, therefore, I feel that the excessive mortality in Guzarat is a phenomenon of which it is difficult to give a full explanation, and which may still call for further enquiry, I think that a good deal of weight should be attached in a comparison, for instance, between Guzarat and the Central Provinces, to the different temparaments of the afflicted populations, and to their relative familiarity or unfamiliarity with relief methods.

"If we examine the death-rate elsewhere, we shall find that, in the Central Provinces, it remained satisfactorily low until the concluding months of the famine. Excluding epidemic disease, the provincial rate for April was only 3·25 *per mille*, and for May 3·42 *per mille*. These were the worst months in Guzarat. In June the rate (excluding cholera and small-pox, which carried off 23,000 persons) rose to four *per mille*, and in some parts was higher. In July it rose to 5·35 *per mille*, while some districts showed a local rate of from seven to ten *per mille*. In August the death-rate in one district rose to no less than 15·21 *per mille*. It is a curious fact, however, that this high mortality was not accompained by any exterior evidence of starvation or even of emaciation. The people in fact did not die of want of food, but from the sudden change in climatic conditions, which occurs during and after the rains.

"In the Punjab, the mortality statistics exhibit much the same features as in the Central Provinces, though in a slightly less degree. In Hissar, where the death-rate has been highest, it has never exceeded 8 *per mille*, excluding cholera. The result of my examination has been to show that relief has been fully and sufficiently given in the Punjab, and that there has been no mortality from starvation, or even from direct privation, save in the case of wanderers from Native States, who arrived in too debilitated a condition to be saved.

"In Berar, the death-rate has been generally moderate, except in two districts adjoining the Nizam's Dominions, where there was much pauper emigration across the border. In the last weeks of the hot weather the mortality rose everywhere, especially in those two districts; but no one has been found to suggest that it was due to any deficiency of relief.

"I do not speak of the mortality in the Native States, which has in many cases been shocking, because the Government of India cannot be held responsible for a system which it does not control, and because my sole desire has been, while stating the best, and admitting the worst, that can be said about our own methods, to ascertain how far the latter have justified themselves, or are capable of amendment. Broadly speaking, it may be said that no endeavours which it is in the power of the most philanthropic or generous of Governments to put forward will avail to prevent an increase of mortality during a severe famine. No relief system in the world will counteract the effects of reduced food-supply, cessation of wages, high prices and break up of homes, among millions of people or will prevent Famine from being attended by its twin sister, pestilence.

"When, however, I read the records of earlier famines, and compare their results with this, I do feel some cause for satisfaction. We are sometimes told of the wonderful things that happened in India before the days of British rule, and are invited, in most unhistorical fashion, to regard it as a Saturnian age. I have looked up the statistics of the last great famine that occurred in Bengal, while that province was still under

Native administration. This was in the year 1770. I speak of local administration, because, although the Diwani of Bengal, had been assumed by the Company a few years before, the latter had not yet taken over the civil administration, which remained in the hands of the former Native officers of the Delhi Government. Throughout the summer of that year it is on record that the husbandmen sold their cattle; they sold their implements of agriculture; they sold their sons and daughters, till at length no buyer of children could be found; they ate the leaves of trees and the grass of the field, and, when the height of the summer was reached, the living were feeding on the dead. The streets of the cities were blocked up with promiscuous heaps of the dead and dying, even the dogs and jackals could not accomplish their revolting work. Disease attacked the starving and shelterless survivors, and swept them off by hundreds of thousands. Before the end of May, 1770, one-third of the population was officially calculated to have disappeared; in June the deaths were returned as 6 is to 16 of the whole inhabitants: and it was estimated that one-half of the cultivators must perish. Two years later Warren Hastings, who had assumed the Government of Bengal on behalf of the British Power, stated the entire loss as at least one-third of the inhabitants, and subsequent calculations revealed that the failure of this single crop, in the single province of Bengal, had carried off within nine months no fewer than ten out of less than thirty millions of human beings.

"After this appalling record of what famine meant in India a century ago, it was almost with a sense of relief that I read the other day in a manifesto issued by an English M. P. to his constituents, whom I may observe in passing that he no longer represents, that 'Lord George Hamilton and Lord Curzon have looked helplessly on, while two millions of human beings have perished of starvation and disease in India.' Had this statement been true, however damaging to the Secretary of State or to myself, it would yet have pointed an extraordinary contrast between the methods and results of 1900 and those of the eighteenth century. But that it is not true is known to every intelligent person in England and in this country. Every man, woman and child who has perished in India in the present famine has been a burden upon my heart and upon that of Government. Their sufferings have never been absent from our thoughts. It cannot truthfully be said even by the most envenomed of opponents that we have looked helplessly on. On the contrary, I fearlessly claim and I challenge contradiction, that there has never been a famine when the general mortality has been less, when the distress has been more amply or swiftly relieved, or when Government and its officers have given themselves with a more whole-hearted devotion to the saving of life and the service of the people.

"What the actual mortality may have been it is impossible to tell with complete accuracy. At a later date the forthcoming Census will throw useful light upon the problem. At the same time, from a comparison of the normal death-rate of the famine-stricken districts in British India, with which alone, of course, I am competent to deal with the death-rate throughout the twelve months duration of the drought, we can ascertain that there has been an excess mortality of 750,000, or ¾ million persons. But out of this total we also know that cholera and small-pox have accounted for a recorded mortality of 230,000, figures which are admitted to be below the mark. Making this deduction, therefore, we arrive at an excess mortality of half a million in British India, more or less attributable to the famine conditions of the year. To say that the greater part of these have died of starvation, or even of destitution, would be an unjustifiable exaggeration; since we know that many other contributary causes have been at work, while the figures include the deaths of immigrants from Native States, for which our administration cannot be held responsible. When further it is remembered that this total is not more than two per cent. of the entire population in the tracts to which it applies, it will be obvious that no very remarkable depopulation has occurred, and it will be recognized that it is with ample justification that I give the assurance that in the entire history of Indian famines, while none has been more intense, in none have the deaths been so few.

"So far my remarks have been confined almost exclusively to what has been done in the recent famine in British India. I must add a few words about the Native States, many of which have been affected in a scarcely inferior degree to our own territories. As I indicated a year ago, while we have sedulously refrained from assuming the direct responsibility for famine relief in those areas, and have shrunk from any unsolicited interference with Native administration, we have yet, in the discharge of our duty as the Paramount Power, and in the interests of the States themselves, tendered them constant advice, have lent them competent officers, have made them liberal loans, and have supplied co-ordination and system to their methods of relief. On the whole, we may congratulate ourselves upon the success that has attended these efforts. In a few States the duty of succouring their subjects has been so neglected by the Durbars as to need strong interference; and in others the good intentions of rulers have been frustrated by the dishonesty and peculation of subordinate officials, who could not resist turning even the starvation of their fellow-creatures to their own profit. But in the majority of cases the Chiefs have shown a most laudable disposition to accept our methods of relief, in so far as their resources and the agency at their command permitted. In some of the Rajputana States, especially in Jaipur, Jodhpore, Bikanir, and Kishengarh, the arrangements have been admirably planned and carried out by the rulers themselves, and have aroused the admiration of persons familiar with the famine system of British Provinces. Surveying the Native States as a whole, we may say that there has been an awakening to the call of philanthropic duty, which has been most gratifying.

"Nevertheless, the difference of the standards in vogue may be judged from a comparison of the figures on relief in the two areas. In Bikanir and Jodhpore, for instance, the numbers relieved in any month never exceeded six per cent. of the nominal population, while in the British districts of Ajmer-Merwara, 25 per cent. of the population were for months on relief. Even in the States under the Bombay Government, in which for various reasons the initiative and supervision of the Political Officers were more in evidence than in Central India and Rajputana, the scale of relief was very different from that in Guzarat. In Kathiawar, the numbers on relief never exceeded 13 per cent. of the population. In Palanpur they reached, but did not exceed, 15 per cent. in one month alone. In the same month (July, 1900), one-third of the aggregate population of the four distressed districts of Guzarat was on relief. The two great States of Baroda and Hyderabad flank the Bombay territory on the north and east. In Hyderabad and Baroda the numbers on relief never rose to five per cent. of the nominal population; and yet both States were visited by drought and famine not less severely than the adjoining districts of the Bombay Presidency. Meanwhile, the difference in the standards of relief was further testified by the eagerness with which thousands of fugitives streamed across the border from Native States into British territory, where they passed themselves off as British subjects, in the hope of enjoying the superior wages and comforts of our relief-works, our poor-houses and our hospitals.

"I do not dwell on this point in order to disparage the efforts, in many cases most praiseworthy, made by Native States to relieve their people; but simply because the difference between the standard of relief at which we have by degrees arrived and the standard of relief recognised as liberal in the best managed Native State, is one of the elementary facts of famine experience. We may gladly admit that more has been done for their people by the Chiefs and rulers of Rajputana on this occasion than in any other historic famine. There are many bright examples of benevolence and humanity. The Maharaja of Jaipur has extended his princely munificence not only to his own people, but to India at large. There is the instance of the late Maharaja of Kishengarh, who, though suffering from a mortal illness, took the keenest interest in the relief arrangements of his State, and never once alluded to his own ill-health. There is also the case of the wife of Maharaja Pertab Singh of Jodhpore, who, not content with opening an orphanage, resided there herself in order to superintend it. These instances—and their number might easily be increased—show the spirit with which the famine has been faced in Rajputana by some, at least, of its rulers. As for the people, they have borne their trials, as the Indian people always do, with exemplary fortitude and resignation.

"I now pass to the subject of the charitable help which has been rendered to us in our long struggle, from in so many quarters, in so many parts of the world. An impression appears to prevail that on the present occasion this assistance has been scant and disappointing. I do not share these views. Looking to the circumstances under which our appeal has been made, and even accepting the test of comparison with the famine of 1896-97, I still hold that the amount contributed has been munificent, while its utility can scarcely be overrated. In 1896-97 the total collections amounted to 170 lakhs, of which ten lakhs remained over at the beginning of the recent famine; in the present year, the Central Relief Committee has received a sum of close upon 140 lakhs or not far short of one million sterling.

"Analysing the subscriptions, I find that India has contributed about the same amount to the Fund as in 1896-97, that it is to say, about 32 lakhs. If the contributions from the European community are deducted, India may be considered to have contributed at the outside less than one-fifth of the total collections of 140 lakhs. More might have been expected from the Native community as a whole, notwithstanding individual examples of remarkable generosity. The little Colony of the Straits Settlements, for instance, which has no connection with India beyond that of sentiment, has given more than the whole of the Punjab. A careful observation of the figures and proceedings in each province compels me to say that, in my opinion, Native India has not yet reached as high a standard of practical philanthropy or charity as might reasonably be expected. Though private wealth in India is not widely distributed, its total volume is considerable. If Englishmen in all parts of the world can be found, as they have been found, twice in three years, willing to contribute enormous sums for the relief of India, on the sole ground that its people are the suffering fellow-subjects of the same Queen, it surely behoves the more affluent of the Native community not to lag behind in the succour of those who are of their own race and creed.

"The collections from abroad have amounted to 108 lakhs, as against 137 lakhs in 1896-97. The United Kingdom's contribution of 88½ lakhs compares indifferently with its contribution of 123 lakhs in 1896-97, but in the circumstances of the year it is a noble gift. The City of Glasgow has been especially generous, with a donation of 8¼ lakhs, and Liverpool with 4½, in addition to nearly 16 lakhs from the rest of Lancashire. Australasia has given nearly eight lakhs in place of the two lakhs sent in 1896-97. The Straits Settlements, Ceylon and Hong Kong have also been extremely generous. Even Chinese Native officials have collected handsome sums on behalf of the Fund. The liberal donation of Germany at the instigation of the Emperor has already been publicly acknowledged. Finally, the United States of America, both through direct contributions to the Fund, and by means of privately distributed gifts of money and grain, have once more shown their vivid sympathy with England's mission and with India's need.

"I pass to the mode in which the Famine Fund has been distributed. The formation of the Fund was accompanied by two announcements; the one, that in the distribution of the money the four objects of relief recognised in 1896-97 would be adhered to: the other, that the claims of Native States would be fully considered. These principles have been faithfully adhered to by the Central Committee. Until the detailed expenditure accounts of the Local Committees are received, we cannot accurately state the distribution under the several headings. But we know approximately that, of 137 lakhs allotted by the Central Committee, 111 lakhs have been for cattle and seed and subsistence to cultivators. The allotments to Native States aggregate nearly 50 lakhs of rupees. The allotments to Rajputana alone amount to 22 lakhs. Measured by the population of the distressed areas, Rajputana has thus been not less generously treated than the Central Provinces. In the case of wealthy States like Gwalior, Hyderabad and Baroda, the Central Committee have restricted their grants to such amounts as the Political Officers have thought it expedient to ask for. Speaking generally, the grants made in Native territory have far exceeded the expectations of the rulers or their subjects. The gratitude of the latter has been expressed in homely and touching phrase. 'If the English had not sent us this money, the thread of our lives would have been broken.' 'These are not rupees which have come over the sea, they are the water of life.' 'We have *heard* of the generosity of Hatim Tai, but we have *tasted* that of the Great Queen.' How timely was the arrival of this charity, and how much it meant, is seen in scores of affecting incidents. 'Now I have got through to the other side,' said a poor cultivator, with tears in his eyes, to the English officer who had given him a few rupees to buy fodder for his famished bullocks. There is ample evidence that this gratitude is of an enduring nature. Some of the happiest memories of famine officers are those of unexpected visits from men who had been helped back to their old life by grants of seed and bullocks, and who returned after many days to again acknowledge the value of the gift. Nor should the self-respect which in not a few cases stood between a needy person and the proffered gift, or the scrupulous regard which led to its return because it might be misapplied, be overlooked. From Rajputana comes an old-world tale of a Rajput Chief, dwelling in his bare house among his destitute tenants, who distributed among the latter the grant allotted to his village, but refused any gift for himself—'I am a Rahtor. I could not take charity'—and who with difficulty was induced to take a small loan. From Rajputana also comes the story of the man who was given a little money to convey his family and himself to a relief-work because he said that he had no means of feeding them on the way, but who came back and returned the gift because, as he said, he had not spoken the truth, since he had five goats which he could kill, one each day, eating part of the flesh, and selling the remainder. It is these incidents which lead one to hope that this great national charity has not been misplaced, but has been received in the spirit in which it has been offered.

"In a famine campaign which has lasted for so long, and has provided so many opportunities for chivalry and self-sacrifice, it would not be difficult, but it might be invidious, to select any names for special mention. Numerous cases of devotion, amounting to the loftiest heroism, have been brought under my notice. I have heard of Englishmen dying at their posts without a murmur. I have seen cases where the entire organisation af a vast area and the lives of thousand of beings, rested upon the shoulders of a single individual, labouring on in silence and solitude, while his bodily strength was fast ebbing away. I have known of Natives, who, inspired by this example, have thrown themselves with equal ardour into the struggle, and have uncomplainingly laid down their lives for their countrymen. Particularly must I mention the noble efforts of the Missionary Agencies of various Christian denominations. If ever there was an occasion in which their local knowledge and influence were likely to be of value, and in which it was open to them to vindicate the highest standards of their beneficent calling, it was here; and strenuously and faithfully have they performed the task.

"From this record of the past I will now turn for a few moments to the future. After the sombre picture that I have been compelled to draw, it is with no small relief that we may contemplate the existing situation and outlook. The monsoon was late in coming, but it has lingered long; and except in the Eastern parts of the Bombay Dekkhan, where I hear of crops withering from the premature cessation of the rains, of a poor kharif, and anxious prospects, the outlook is everywere promising. The early autumn crops are already being harvested, and prices are steadly falling back to their accustomed level. A good cotton crop is on the ground, and as the cotton crop of India is worth thirteen millions sterling in an average year, its importance to the agriculturist will be readily understood. Preparations for the winter crops are being actively made, and there is every expectation that the sowings in may parts will be unusually large, and will be made in the most favourable circumstances. A good winter harvest means cash to the farmer, as a good autumn harvest means cheap and abundant food to the poorest classes. If we have the good fortune to see our anticipations realised, next year should witness the export trade in agricultural produce again revive, and the import trade expand with the improvement in the purchasing power of the people.

"That the famine-smitten tracts will at once or speedily lose the marks of the ordeal through which they have passed, is not to be expected. The rapidity of the recovery will depend upon many circumstances—upon the vitality and stout-heartedness of the

tillers of the soil, upon the degree of their indebtedness, upon the goodness or badness of the next few seasons, upon the extent to which their cattle have perished, and not least upon the liberality, in respect of revenue remission, of the Government. As regards the loss of stock, our latest reports are more encouraging than at one time we could have foreseen, and justify us in the belief that, if the seasons be propitious recuperation will be more rapid than might at first sight be deemed likely. In olden times, after a Famine such as we have experienced, the district would have been depopulated, and the land would have lain waste for a generation, for lack of hands to till it. There may be isolated tracts in the jungle and mountain fastnesses of Central India and Rajputana, where the approaching Census will reveal a melancholy decrease of population. But treating India as a whole, neither in Native States nor in British territory is the widespread and lasting desolation which followed the footsteps of a Famine a hundred years ago any longer within the bounds of possibility. The standard of humanity has risen with the means of combating the peril; and in proportion as the struggle has been arduous, so are its after-effects mitigated.

"I have alluded to the attitude of Government. In so far as generosity in respect of advances of loans, of suspensions, and most of all of remissions, is concerned, the figures that I have previously given will have shown that on our part there has been no hanging back. Our first object has hitherto been to pull the sufferers through. Our first object now is to start them again with reasonable chances in the world. Behind these two objects lies the further and binding duty of profiting by the lessons that the Famine has taught. It will not do for us to sit still until the next Famine comes and then bewail the mysteries of Providence. A Famine is a natural visitation in its origin; but it is, or should be, a very business-like proceeding when once it has started. There are many subjects into which we shall require to make careful enquiry, and an investigation into which we have already suggested to the Secretary of State. We shall want to compare the various relief-systems and their results as practised in the different provinces; to see in what respects our Codes are faulty, where they are too rigid, and where they are too lax; to still further investigate the vexed question of large works as against small works, and of relief-concentration as against relief-dispersion. We shall have to examine the rival merits of relief-establishments, and of unconditional gratuitous relief when the rains break. We must consider how far sudden and excessive mortality is to be explained or prevented. We must ascertain the best means of bringing home relief, in the form of revenue remissions and suspensions, with the greatest promptitude and directness to the people. We must investigate and report upon the various public works that have been undertaken in the course of the recent Famine and must provide for the execution of a continuous programme of preventive works in the future.

"In this connection I would remind my hearers that the last Famine Commission in their report devoted much attention to the matter. Unfortunately the recent Famine came upon us before their recommendations had had time to bear fruit; and in the rush and hurry of the overwhelming calamity of the past year, works had often to be improvised so to speak in a moment, to meet the demands of a particular area, whether the work was or was not likely to be of permanent value. Against this danger we shall require to guard by insisting upon the methodical preparation of district programmes, and upon the formation of provincial branches, to be charged with this special duty. Railway earthwork has been pretty well exhausted for the present. More roads exist than can be properly kept up. But there are few parts of the country where works for the storage of water are not practicable. They may not, probably will not, be directly remunerative. But if such a work will conduce to greater security of the crops, and if it can be maintained at a moderate cost, it is just the sort of work which should be taken up or kept in hand for an emergency. No direct programme of relief should be considered complete until every possible irrigation or water storage scheme in the district has been examined, until a definite opinion has been come to as to its practicability and utility, and until detailed plans and estimates have been prepared for every accepted scheme. Such works will not fall within the category of the vast productive irrigation-projects such as have been executed in many parts of India. These are only possible amid certain physical surroundings, in the alluvial plains of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, in the deltaic tracts of Madras and Sind, and within the dry zone of Burma. All the possible schemes of this character are well known, and are gradually being undertaken. Tank storage again is not everywhere practicable. It is often found impossible to construct new tanks without injuring those already in existence; there is risk of water-logging the soil; and the water-supply is apt to fail altogether and to run dry at the very moment when it is most wanted, namely, in time of famine. Nor are the average results of works of this description that have already been carried out very favourable. It is possible to reclaim land for cultivation at a cost that is too heavy. On the other hand, it would seem that the underground storage of water might be widely and systematically undertaken, and that a more generous policy might be adopted towards the construction of wells. All these are matters which we should investigate and set on foot before the next famine comes. The annual rainfall of India we can neither regulate nor forecast. The social habits of the people we cannot alter in a decade, or in a generation. But, if we can neither prevent nor cure, at least we can do a good deal by way of precaution.

"There is one recommendation that was made by the last Famine Commission which should, I think, be of value to us in our policy of preparation, inasmuch as it has since

received the sanction of the Secretary of State. This was the proposal that the cost of investigating and preparing new projects falling into the class of protective works should form a charge against the annual Famine Grant. Hitherto such preliminary outlay has been chargeable to the ordinary Public Works head of the Provincial Budget, and this has no doubt deterred the Provincial Governments in the past from expending money in investigating projects for canals and irrigation reservoirs, which might prove, on examination, to be impracticable, and which, even if practicable, would have to stand over indefinitely until required for purposes of famine-relief. There are other respects in which I think that the Famine Grant might be turned to better account in carrying out its original object than is at present the case; but I have not time to deal with them now.

"I must apologise to Council for having detained them so long. But a famine such as we have lately experienced is not an every-day or an every-year occurrence. It cannot be met with a sigh, or dismissed with a shudder. It is a terrible incident, an abiding landmark, in the history of the Indian people. As such, its management and its study impose a heavy responsibility upon those of us who are charged with the government of this great dependency. It is with the object of demonstrating to the Indian public that in the administration of the recent famine we have not been unworthy of our trust, and that this year of strain and suffering will not have passed by without our profiting by its lessons, that I have made this speech."

APPENDIX D.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900.

Patron:

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN-EMPRESS OF INDIA.

President:

H. E. Lord Curzon, of Kedleston, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governo General of India.

Vice Presidents:

His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay.
His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Governor of Madras.
His Excellency General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, G C.B., K.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief in India.
His Honour Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
His Honour Sir A. P. MacDonnell, G.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh.
His Honour Sir William Mackworth Young, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.
His Honour Sir Frederic Fryer, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Burma.
Hon'ble Mr. A. H. L. Fraser, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.
Hon'ble Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Chairman:

The Hon'ble Sir Francis W. Maclean, K.C.I.E., Chief Justice of Bengal.

Committee:

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta.
The Hon'ble Major-General Sir Edwin Collen, K.C.I.E., C.B.
The Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, K.C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Dawkins.
The Hon'ble Mr. T. Raleigh.
The Hon'ble Mr. Denzil Ibbetson, C.S.I.
Sir Trevor Plowden, K.C.S.I. Resident, Hyderabad.
The Hon'ble Mr. Donald Smeaton, C.S.I.
Mr. T. W. Holderness, C.S.I.
Mr. A. H T. Martindale.
Hon'ble Lieut.-Col. D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. Evans, C.S.I.
Mr. T. Higham, C.I.E.
Mr. F. R. Upcott.
Major-General Sir A. Gaselee, K.C.B.
Major-General Sir E. R. Elles, K C.B.
Surgeon-General R. Harvey, C.B.
Dr. J. W. Von Waldthausen,
Mr. H. E. M. James, C.S.I.
The Very Reverend Father Marchal.
The Hon'ble Sir H. T. Prinsep, *Kt.*
The Hon'ble Sir W. Macpherson, *Kt.*
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Hill.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rampini.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Stevens.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Stanley.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wilkins.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harington.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chandra Madhub Ghose.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amir Ali.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Guru Dass Banerjee, D.L
The Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Slack.
The Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker.
Sir G. H. P. Evans, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. Pratt.
Mr. M. C. Turner, of Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Co.

The Ven'ble Archdeacon Stone.
Sir Patrick Playfair, *Kt.*, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir) Allan Arthur.
Mr. A. H. James, Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.
The Hon'ble Mr. T. W. Spink.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. T. Woodroffe.
Mr. George Irving.
Mr. Paul Knight.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Apcar.
Mr. A. K. Muir.
Mr. W. A. Bankier.
Mr. W. D. Cruickshank.
Mr. A. B. Miller.
Mr. D. McLaren Morrison.
The Hon'ble Mr. D. F. Mackenzie.
Mr. Shirley Tremearne.
Mr. A. G. Apcar.
Mr. H. M. Rustomjee.
Mr. R. D. Mehta, C.I.E.
Mr. Cairns Deas.
The Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee.
The Hon'ble Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.I.E.
Mr. F. W. Duke, Offg. Chairman, Calcutta Corporation.
Mr. C. A. Martin.
Mr. A. J. F. Blair.
Mr. J. E. D. Ezra.
Mr. A. P. Rodocanachi.
His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Cooch Behar, G.C.I.E.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwara Singh, of Gidhaur, K.C.I.E.
His Highness the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, G.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Maharaja Rameshvar Singh, of Durbhanga.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Norendra Krishna, K.C.I.E.
Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy, of Kasimbazar.
Maharaja Surja Kanta Acharyya, Bahadur, of Mymensingh.
Maharaja Har Bulluv Narain Singh, Bahadur, of Sonbursa.
The Hon'ble Prince Muhammad Bukhtiar Shah, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Kumar Sir Harnam Singh, K.C.I.E.
Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdul Jabbar, Prime Minister of Bhopal.
Nawab Wala Kadir Syud Hosein Ali Mirza, G.C.I.E., Bahadur of Murshidabad.
Nawab Zain-ul-ab-din, Bahadur of Murshidabad.
Prince Syud Wasif Ali Mirza, Bahadur, of Murshidabad.
Syed Mehdi Hasan Ali Badshah, Nawab of Patna.
John C. Wilson, Esq.
Rai Bahadur Anath Nath Mullick.
Babu Charu Chunder Mullick.
Babu Dooly Chund.
Babu Damodar Dass Burman.
Kumar Manindra Mullick (Chorebagan).
Babu Sheopershad Jhoonjhoon Wala.
Babu Sita Nath Roy.
Maharaj Kumar Prodyot Coomar Tagore.
W. Parsons, Esq., Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
Hon'ble Rai Doorga Gati Banerji, Bahadur, C.I.E.
Rev. Mr. Whitton, Nagpore.
Babu Rama Nath Ghose.
Kumar Manmatha Nath Mitter, Rai Bahadur.
Rai Bahadur Hari Ram Goenka.
Raja Bahadur Rajendra Narayan Roy Chowdhury, of Bhawal, Dacca.
Raja Bahadur the Hon'ble Shashi Shekareshwar Roy, of Tahirpore, Rajshahi.
Raja Bahadur the Hon'ble Ranajit Singh, of Nashipur, Murshidabad.
Raja Sir Sourindra Mohun Tagore, *Kt.*, C.I.E.
Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C.S.I., Hooghly.
Raja Mahima Ranjan Roy Chowdhry, of Kakina, Rangpur.
Raja Jyoti Prasad Gorgu, of Maisadal, Midnapore.
Raja Janaki Bulluv Sen, Mahiganj, Rangpur.
Raja Sreenath Roy, Bhagyakul, Dacca.
Raja Bun Bihari Kapur, Burdwan.
Raja Binaya Krishna Deb, Calcutta.
Raja Pramada Nath Roy, of Dighapatia, Rajshahi.
Raja Sheo Bux Bogla, of Calcutta.
Rai Bahadur Badri Dass, of Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji.
Babu Joy Gobind Law, C.I.E., of Calcutta.
The Hon'ble Sir Khwaja Ahsanulla, K.C.I.E., of Dacca.
The Hon'ble Saiyid Ameer Hossein, C.I.E., of Calcutta.
Nawab Saiyed Abdus Sobhan Chaudhuri, of Bogra.
Syed Khurshed Nawab, of Patna.
Prince Kamr Kadr Mirza Abid Ali, Bahadur, of Calcutta.
Khan Bahadur Fuzl Iman, Bankipur.
The Hon'ble Delawar Hossein Ahmed.
Khan Bahadur A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, of Calcutta.
The Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Madras.
The Most Revd. J. Colgan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Madras.
The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Nicholson, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot.
The Hon'ble Lt.-Col. Sir George Moore, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Mr. Eardley J. Norton.
Mr. A. F. Cox.
Mr. H. K. Beauchamp.
The Prince of Arcot, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E.
The Raja of Venkatagiri, K.C.I.E.
Maharaja Gajapati Rao.
Raja Sir Savalai Ramaswami Mudaliar.
The Hon'ble Sir S. Subramania Aiyar.
The Hon'ble Sir V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble P. Ananda Charlu, Rai Bahadur, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble P. Rajaratna Mudaliar.
Nawab Syed Muhammad Sahib.
Krishnadass Balamukundass.
Haji Muhammad Abdul Azeez, Badsha Sahib.
Sir Lawrence Jenkins, *Kt.*
Sir Jumsetjee Jeejeebhoy, *Bart.*
The Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Bombay.
The Most Revd. Theodore Dalloff, Archbishop of Bombay.
Mr. Jamsetji N. Tata.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. G. Ranade.
The Hon'ble Mr. Gokuldas Kahandas Parekh.
The Hon'ble Mr. Vijbhucandas Atmaram.
The Hon'ble Mr. Bomanji Dinshaw Petit.
The Hon'ble Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtula.
The Hon'ble Mr. N. G. Chandavakar.
Mr. Rahimtoola Mahomed Sayani.
The Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta.
Sir G. Cotton, *Kt.*
Mr. N. S. Glazebrook.
Mr. C. M. Cursetji.
Mr. B. M. Malabari.
Mr. J. Sanders-Slater.
Mr. Dinsha Edulji Wacha.
Dr. Cawasji Hormasji.
Mr. R. H. Macaulay.
Mr. Hartley Kennedy.
Mr. H. E. Procter.
Mr. W. L. Harvey.
Mr. R. D. Setna.
Khan Bahadur Darasha R. Chichgar.
Mr. Shapurji B. Bharoocha.
Mr. K. N. Kabraji.
Mr. Lakhamsey Napoo.
Mr. Naranji Dwarkadas.
Mr. Goverdhandas Khatao Makanji.
Mr. James Macdonald.
Mr. Virchand Deepchand, C.I.E.
Mr. Chimanlal H. Setalwad.
Mr. Dharamsi Morarji Gokuldas.
Rao Saheb Vassanji Khimji.
Mr. Kharsetji N. Wadia.
Mr. Fakirchand Premchand.
Mr. Vithaldas Damodar Thakersey Mulji.
Sardar Haji Casum Mitha.
Mr. Karimji Adamji Pirbhoy.
Haji Yusuf Haji Ismail.

Dr. Ismail Jan Mahomed.
Mr. Jehangir B. Marzban.
Mr. K. M. Shroff.
Mr. Jeejeebhoy M. M. Jeejeebhoy.
Mr. Nanabhoy R. Ranina.
Khan Bahadur M. C. Marzban.
Mr. Ratonsi Mulji.
Mr. Karamsi Damji.
Mr. Damodardas Goverdhandas.
Mr. R. B. Keshavjee Nathoo Sailor.
Mr. Khimji Jairam Narranji.
Mr. Bhaishankar Nanabhai.
Mr. Sarafali Mamooji.
Professor O. V. Muller.
Mr. J. Begbie.
The Hon'ble Mr. T. C. Burke.
Mr. F. C. Macrae.
The Revd. J. Henderson.
The Revd. R. M. Gray.
Mr. Goverdhandas Goculdas Tejpal.
Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna.
Mr. Narandas Pursotumdas.
Mr. Fazalbhoy Vishram.
The Hon'ble Sir Arthur Strachey, *Kt.*, Chief Justice, High Court of Judicature, North-Western Provinces.
Mr. J. Deas, Judicial Commissioner, Oudh.
The Right Revd. A. Clifford, D.D, Bishop of Lucknow.
The Most Revd. Dr. Charles Gentill, O.C., Archbishop of Agr-
Mr. G. R. C. Williams, Commissioner, Meerut.
Mr. W. H. L. Impey, Commissioner, Agra.
Mr. H. Z. Darrah, Commissioner, Rohilkhand.
Mr. E. B. Alexander, Commissioner, Allahabad.
Mr. L. A. S. Porter, Commissioner, Benares.
Mr. V. A. Smith, Commissioner, Gorakhpur.
Mr. R. E. Hamblin, Commissioner, Kumaon.
The Hon'ble Mr. R. G. Hardy, C.S.I., Commissioner, Lucknow.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. Hooper, Commissioner, Fyzabad.
His Highness Maharaja Sir Prabhu Narain Singh, Bahadur, G.C.I.E., of Benares.
Raja Ghansham Singh, Bahadur, of Mursan.
Nawab Mumtaz-ud-Daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, of Pahasu.
Nawab Muhammad Lutf Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur, of Talibnagar.
Shaikh Hafiz Abdul Karim, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E.
Rai Nihal Chand Bahadur.
Maharaja Mohendra Singh, C.I.E., of Bhadawar.
Raja Ram Partab Singh, of Mainpuri.
Raja Udit Narain Singh, of Tirwa.
Raja Seth Lachhman Das, C.I.E.
Raja Balwant Singh, C.I.E., of Awa.
Raja Kishen Kumar, of Sahespur.
Raja Fateh Singh, of Pawayan.
Raja Shiam Singh, of Tajpur.
Raja Jai Kishan Das, Bahadur, C.S.I.
Raja Ram Partab Singh, of Manda.
Raja Banspat Singh, of Bara.
Raja Narpat Singh, of Asothar.
Rai Ram Charan Dass, Bahadur.
Raja Bhup Indra Bahadur Singh, of Kantit.
Mr. Fox, Manager of the Estates of the Maharani of Dumraon.
Raja Ram Singh, of Bansi.
Raja Udit Narain, of Padrauna.
Sayid Wajid Ali Shah.
Maharaja Sir Partab Narayan Singh, K.C.I.E., of Ajudhia.
Raja Rudar Partab Sahi, of Dehra.
Amir-ud-daula, Said-ul-Mulk, Mamtaz Jang Raja Sir Muhammad Amir Hassan Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Mahmudabad.
Rana Sheoraj Singh, of Thalrai (Khajurgaon)
Raja Tasaduq Rasul Khan, C.S.I., of Jahangirabad.
Raja Jang Bahadur Khan, C.I.E., of Nanpára.
Raja Muhammad Kazim Husain Khan, of Paintipur.
Raja Bhup Indra Bikram Singh, C.I.E., of Piyagpur.
Raja Jugmohan Singh, C.I.E., of Atra-Chandapur.
Raja Shaban Ali, Khan Bahadur, of Salempur.
Raja Partab Bahadur Singh, of Tiraul.

Chaudhri Muhammad Azim, of Kakraili.
Lala Durga Pershad, of Serwan, Baragaon.
Shaikh Inayat-ullah, of Saidanpur.
Rai Sri Ram, Bahadur, of Rasulpur.
Mr. W. O. Clark, I.C.S., Chief Judge, Chief Court, Punjab.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I., Financial Commissioner.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Fanshawe, Commissioner, Delhi Division.
The Hon'ble Sir Amir-ud-din Ahmed, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Nawab of Loharu.
The Hon'ble Sir Baba Khem Singh, Bedi, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Madan Gopal, M.A.
The Hon'ble Nawab Muhammad Hyat Khan, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Haji Nawab Fateh Ali Khan, Kazilbash.
Mr. E. B. Francis, I.C.S.
Mr. D. P. Masson, C.I.E., V.D.
The Revd. Mr. J. C. Ewing, D.D.
Sirdar Jiwan Singh, C.S.I.
Raja Jai Chand, of Lambagraon, Kangra District.
Sardar Sujan Singh, Rai Bahadur.
Sardar Bahadur Jaggat Singh, C.I.E.
Malik Umar Hyat Khan.
Ram Kishen Das, Rai Bahadur.
Mirza Muhammad Keman Shah, *alias* Surya Jah.
Rai Bahadur Gagar Mal.
Bedi Sujan Singh, of Una.
Lala Murli Dhar.
The Right Revd. J. M. Strachan, D.D., M.D., Bishop of Rangoon.
The Right Revd. Bishop Cardot, Roman Catholic Bishop.
Sir W. F. Agnew, Recorder of Rangoon.
Mr. A. R. Birks, Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Lower Burma.
Mr. H. Thirkell-White, C.I.E., Judicial Commissioner, Upper Burma, Mandalay.
The Hon'ble Mr. D. Norton, C.S.I., Officiating Financial Commissioner, Burma.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. E. Bridges, Commissioner, Pegu.
Mr. Harvey Adamson, Commissioner of Mandalay.
The Hon'ble Mr. A. Pennycuick, C.I.E.
Mr. W. H. A. St. J. Leeds, C.S., President, Rangoon Municipality.
Mr. D. Cameron.
Mr. E. Andrews.
Mr. J. Gladstone.
Mr. R. Focke.
Mr. E. Bruce.
Mr. H. Schmidt.
The Hon'ble the Ex-Kinwun Mingyi, Mandalay.
Maung On Gaing, C.I.E., A.P.M.,
Maung Myatsan, A.P.M,
Ismail Ibrahim Munner.
Mr. Madooray Pillay, Rai Bahadur.
Limchin Paik.
Mr. Mirwanji Cowasji.
Mr. Maung Shwe Pe, K.S.M.
Mr. Hock Gwan.
Mr. Cheng Taik.
Mr. S. Ismay, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner.
Mr. J. B. Fuller, I.C.S., C.I.E., Commissioner of the Jubbulpore Division.
Mr. A. D. Younghusband, I.C.S., Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division.
Mr. F. A. T. Phillips, I.C.S., Commissioner of the Nerbudda Division.
Mr. W. A. Nedham, U.C.S., Commissioner of the Nagpur Division.
Mr. Gangadhar Madho Chitnavis, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bepin Krishna Bose, M.A., B.L., C.I.E.
The Right Revd. Dr. C. F. Pelvat.
The Revd. J. Douglas.
Rao Bahadur Bhargo Rao.
Khan Bahadur Bezonji Dadabhai.
Raja Seth Gokuldas.
Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ali Ahmad.
Pandit Raghunath Rao.
Rai Bahadur Lala Nund Kishor.
Rai Bahadur Dada Gulab Singh.
Rai Bahadur Behari Lal Khazanchi.
Rao Saheb Balwant Rao Bhuskute.
Rai Bahadur Kalidas Chowdhri.
Mr. Nritya Gopal Bose.
Muhammad Ali Raza Khan.
Shaikh Salah-ud-din.

Mr. G. D. Oswell, M.A.
The Revd. J. Lohr.
Mr. Hari Singh Gour, M.A., Barrister-at-Law.
Rai Saheb Seth Kapur Chand.
Mr. J. N. Sen.
Raja Girish Chunder Roy, of Sylhet.
The Hon'ble Mr. James Buckingham, C.I.E., of Amguri.
Rai Jagannath Barua, Bahadur.

Honorary Secretary:
The Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Smeaton, C.S.I.

Bankers:
The Bank of Bengal.

APPENDIX E.

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st May 1901.

	£ s. d.	R a. p.	R a. p.
UNITED KINGDOM—			
Mansion House	387,683 10 7	58,15,255 14 9	
Lancashire County	110,461 1 1	16,56,915 13 3	
Do. Miscellaneous	3,071 18 2	45,924 1 11	
Glasgow	55,822 13 9	8,37,340 8 0	
Liverpool	30,581 14 3	4,57,428 7 4	
Edinburgh	12,969 12 8	1,93,904 14 6	
Paisley	1,889 19 3	28,144 2 4	
Dublin	3,542 1 5	52,771 9 9	
Miscellaneous	20,072 8 0	3,01,085 15 6	
	£ 626,094 19 2		93,88,771 7
AUSTRALIA—			
VICTORIA— Melbourne	3,789 14 4	56,669 12 2	
Miscellaneous	372 10 0	5,589 3 0	
NEW SOUTH WALES— Sydney	16,000 0 0	2,39,668 2 2	
Broken Hill	65 0 0	968 5 0	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA— Perth	2,900 0 0	43,213 5 9	
Miscellaneous	103 14 5	1,552 12 6	
QUEENSLAND—*			
Brisbane	1,278 2 2	19,171 10 0	
Bundaberg	126 8 0	1,896 0 0	
Maryborough	52 2 6	781 14 0	
Mount Morgan	155 0 0	2,325 0 0	
Rockhampton	176 8 9	2,631 8 1	
Roma	51 0 1	765 1 0	
Springsure	50 5 0	753 12 0	
Toowoomba	447 4 6	6,708 6 0	
Warwick	65 1 0	975 12 0	
49 other Towns	625 14 3	9,385 11 0	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA— Adelaide	4,822 6 3	71,914 2 2	
	£ 31,080 11 3		4,64,970 4 10
		Carried forward Rs.	98,53,741 12 2

* Remittances from Queensland were mostly forwarded by the Government, and the apportionment is made up to December 1900. Later receipts appear under the last head.

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st May 1901—contd.

	£ s. d.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
		Brought forward Rs.	98,53,741 12 2
NEW ZEALAND—			
Dunedin	4,497 12 0	67,254 1 5	
Wellington	3,322 4 9	49,805 11 2	
Auckland	1,300 0 0	19,517 10 2	
Napier	598 12 0	8,944 0 9	
Invercargill	1,246 5 3	18,640 15 0	
Palmerston North	171 0 0	2,559 15 10	
Wanganui	477 11 4	7,141 11 8	
City of Christchurch	2,283 0 0	34,128 14 3	
Feilding	150 0 0	2,244 2 5	
Gisborne	190 12 8	2,856 3 5	
Government of New Zealand	5,000 0 0	74,563 1 9	
Apite	25 0 0	373 8 6	
New Plymouth	220 6 10	3,281 13 3	
Gore	99 0 0	1,476 5 6	
Elcham	30 0 0	450 0 0	
Marlborough	133 14 4	2,003 13 1	
Rangitikei	233 2 0	3,494 4 3	
Daneverke	17 0 0	254 0 0	
Waitara	40 0 0	596 8 0	
Miscellaneous	10 0 0	146 0 1	
	£ 20,045 1 2		2,99,732 12 6
TASMANIA—			
Launceston and North Tasmania	1,228 4 4	18,404 10 5	
Hobart	237 4 6	3,537 10 4	
	£ 1,465 8 10		21,942 4 9
		Carried forward Rs.	1,01,75,416 13 5

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st May 1901—contd.

	£ s. d.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
		Brought forward Rs.	101,75,416 13 5
CANADA—			
Halifax Herald	2,700 0 0	40,214 15 3	
Hamilton, Ontario . . .	260 9 7	3,907 3 0	
Miscellaneous	321 17 1	4,821 9 6	48,943 11 9
£	3,282 6 8		
CHINA—			
Hongkong	.....	56,640 5 2	
Shanghai	.....	1,53,800 0 0	
Tientsin	.....	7,280 9 6	
Amoy	.....	1,510 2 6	
Corea	.....	815 13 3	
Miscellaneous	.....	1,658 4 6	
			2,21,705 2 11
JAPAN—			
Yokohama	.....	8,424 0 0	
Kobe	.....	4,168 2 8	
Miscellaneous	.....	23,274 5 2	
			35866 7 10
U. S. AMERICA—			
New York	5,000 0 0	74,563 1 9	
Chicago	1,750 0 0	26,147 13 7	
Philadelphia	808 11 9	12,107 9 8	
Boston	80 7 7	1,204 14 2	
Miscellaneous	755 7 9	11,332 6 3	
			1,25,355 13 5
£	8,394 7 1		
CEYLON	.....	.....	2,06,572 8 8
		Carried forward Rs.	1,08,13,860 10 0

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st May 1901—contd.

	£ s. d.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
		Brought forward Rs.	1,08,13,860 10 0
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—			
Government Grant, dollars	20,000·00	29,590 5 3	
Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan, Government Grant	22,000·00	32,549 5 9	
Singapore	58,052·57	85,889 11 8	
Johore	1,141·30	1,688 9 2	
Malacca	1,031·30	1,525 13 2	
Penang	22,840·33	33,792 10 3	
Perak	10,164·77	15,038 15 1	
Selangor	8,203·89	12,137 12 8	
Negri Sembilan . . .	2,244·20	3,320 5 4	
North Borneo	235·00	347 11 0	
Miscellaneous	.....	347 15 7	
			2,16,229 2 11
	£ s. d.		
MAURITIUS	.....	.....	18,457 6 4
SIAM—			
Bangkok	.....	.....	6,662 12 5
GERMANY	.....	.....	4,14,759 8 0
SOUTH AFRICA—			
Transvaal	5 0 0	74 11 3	
Port Elizabeth	933 0 7	13,968 2 5	
Uitenhage	62 10 8	935 1 11	
Cradock	38 12 7	607 1 0	
Somerset East	60 10 11	906 6 8	
Fort Beaufort	33 3 3	496 7 6	
Bedford	4 17 5	72 12 6	
Knysna	10 17 5	162 1 9	
Miscellaneous	0 5 0	3 12 0	
			17,226 9 0
£	1,148 17 10		
		Carried forward Rs.	1,14,87,196 0 8

Classified List of Subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, from the time of the inauguration of the Fund to the 31st May 1901—contd.

	R	*a.*	*p.*	*R*	*a.*	*p.*
	Brought forward Rs.			1,14,87,196	0	8
BRITISH WEST INDIES	.....			100	0	0
INDIA—						
Collected by the Central Executive Committee—						
Schools	2,873	15	0			
Ecclesiastical and Offertory Collections . .	7,121	9	9			
Individuals	1,01,797	10	1			
Merchants, Bankers, etc., of Calcutta . .	2,81,650	0	0			
Rajahs, Nawabs, etc. (chiefly in Bengal) . .	4,15,386	14	6			
Regiments and Batteries	15,842	13	7			
Station Hospitals	386	3	0			
Trades of Calcutta	15,478	6	6			
Collections from Public Offices, Planters, Masonic Lodges, and miscellaneous.	27,776	7	11	8,68,314	0	4
Collected by the following Provincial Branches—						
Bengal	3,13,766	0	0			
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	3,90,551	11	8			
Madras	1,85,345	9	6			
Burma	2,78,000	0	0			
Rajputana	400	0	0			
Central India	2,985	5	6			
Mysore	64,700	0	0			
Sind	1,13,290	0	0			
Assam	32,213	0	2			
				13,81,251	10	10
Interest on Short Deposit Account	...			18,253	5	8
Balance from Fund of 1897	...			*9,63,819	4	10
	TOTAL Rs.			1,47,18,934	6	4

*Including Rs. 95,000 disbursed by Committee of 1897 before the formation of Committee of 1900.

Note.—Several of the Sterling amounts given in the foregoing are only approximate and not exact, the remittance having been received in Rupees and the Sterling equivalent calculated approximately.

Examined and found correct.

LOVELOCK AND LEWES,
Chartered Accountants.

A. F. COX,
Honorary Secretary.

Brought forward Rs. 1,47,18,934 6 4

List of amounts received up to 28th February 1901 by the Provincial and District Committees, to be expended locally.

Province.	Amount.		
	R	*a.*	*p.*
Bombay	7,50,220	1	10
Central Provinces	2,66,830	8	3
Punjab	2,62,521	3	4
Rajputana	99,506	2	7
Central India	65,356	11	3
Hyderabad (Deccan)	720	0	0
Berar	1,19,612	6	9
Madras	68,890	9	4
TOTAL	16,33,657	11	4
Miscellaneous Receipts by Provincial and District Committees	3,43,068	1	9
GRAND TOTAL	1,66,95,660	3	5

APPENDIX F.

List of Remittances made by Central Committee to Branches.

	Distribution by Committee of Fund of 1897.	Preliminary distributions February, March.	April.	May 2nd.	May 16th and 26th.	May 28th.	June 18th.	July 4th.	July 26th and 30th.	August 22nd.	September 4th.	September 27th.
BRITISH INDIA.	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
Bombay	...	50,000	7,25,000	4,25,000	4,00,000	7,50,000	4,50,000	3,00,000	†5,00,000	†3,00,000	†75,000	†2,00,000
Punjab	25,000	25,000	2,25,000	2,00,000	50,000	3,00,000	1,80,000	1,20,000	...	...	...	...
Central Provinces	50,000	...	7,00,000	4,50,000	50,000	5,00,000	3,00,000	2,00,000	...	‡3,00,000	...	‡1,00,000
Berar	10,000	...	1,25,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	1,50,000	90,000	60,000	...	...	75,000	...
Ajmer	...	20,000	75,000	50,000	...	50,000	30,000	...	...	...	...	...
Baluchistan	...	10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N.-W. P. and Oudh	...	...	...	...	25,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NATIVE STATES.												
Rajputana	*10,000	1,25,000	4,00,000	2,75,000	...	2,50,000	1,50,000	*1,20,000	*3,00,000	*3,00,000	*75,000	*2,00,000
Central India	...	...	1,00,000	1,25,000	2,00,000	1,50,000	90,000	60,000	...	...	...	...
Baroda	...	...	25,000	25,000	...	50,000	30,000	1,20,000	...	...	...	...
Bombay States	...	...	1,50,000	1,25,000	2,00,000	1,50,000	90,000	60,000	...	...	...	...
Hyderabad	...	...	25,000	25,000	...	50,000	30,000	...	...	1,00,000	...	1,00,000
Punjab States	...	...	25,000	25,000	...	50,000	30,000	...	...	...	...	...
Cantral Provinces States	...	...	25,000	25,000	...	50,000	30,000	20,000	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	95,000	2,30,000	26,00,000	18,50,000	10,25,000	25,00,000	15,00,000	10,60,000	8,00,000	10,00,000	2,25,000	6,00,000

	October. and November	1901, January 16th	Earmarked allotments.	TOTAL.	Less amounts refunded.	Net amouuts remitted to Provincial Branches. to 28th February 1901.	March and May 1901.	Grand total of net remittances.
BRITISH INDIA	₹	₹	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Bombay	...	†8,00,000	†2,505 0 0	49,77,505 0 0	...	49,77,505 0 0	3,438 2 2	49,80,943 2 2
Punjab	...	...	366 8 6	11,25,366 8 6	(a)2,50,000 0 0	8,75,366 8 6	...	8,75,366 8 6
Central Provinces	11,000	...	1,520 0 0	26,62,520 0 0	...	26,62,520 0 0	‡20,000 0 0	26,82,520 0 0
Berar	...	...	...	7,10,000 0 0	30,000 0 0	6,80,000 0 0	...	6,80,000 0 0
Ajmer	...	...	...	2,25,000 0 0	...	2,25,000 0 0	...	2,25,000 0 0
Baluchistan	...	...	...	10,000 0 0	53 14 0	9,946 2 0	...	9,946 2 0
N.-W. P. and Oudh	...	...	...	25,000 0 0	...	25,000 0 0	...	25,000 0 0
NATIVE STATES.								
Rajputana	...	...	25 0 0	22,05,025 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	21,05,025 0 0	*80,000 0 0	21,85,025 0 0
Central India	...	...	...	7,25,000 0 0	...	7,25,000 0 0	...	7,25,000 0 0
Baroda	...	...	...	2,50,000 0 0	...	2,50,000 0 0	...	2,50,000 0 0
Bombay States	...	...	...	7,75,000 0 0	...	7,75,000 0 0	...	7,75,000 0 0
Hyderabad	...	...	...	3,30,000 0 0	1,37,349 14 4	1,92,650 1 8	...	1,92,650 1 8
Punjab States	...	...	...	1,30,000 0 0	...	1,30,000 0 0	...	1,30,000 0 0
Central Provinces States	...	...	...	1,50,000 0 0	...	1,50,000 0 0	...	1,50,000 0 0
TOTAL	11,000	8,00,000	4,416 8 6	1,43,00,416 8 6	5,17,403 12 4	1,37,83,012 12 2	1,03,438 2 2	1,38,86,450 14 4

(a) Of this sum Rs. 1,18,500 was refunded from grants to Native States.
* Including Ajmer and Merwara.
† Including Native States.
‡ Including Native States.

Examined and found correct.

LOVELOCK AND LEWES,
Chartered Accountants.

A. F. COX,
Honorary Secretary.

APPENDIX G.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Account of Receipts and Expenditure to 31st May 1901.

1901		₹ a. p.	1901		₹ a. p.
May 31st	To total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee from the inauguration of the Fund to date.	1,47,18,934 6 4	May 31st	By net payments made to Provincial Committees as follows:—	
				British India.	₹ a. p.
				Bombay Branch	49,80,943 2 2
				Punjab „	8,75,366 8 6
				Central Provinces Branch	26,82,520 0 0
				Berar Branch	6,80,000 0 0
				Ajmer „	2,25,000 0 0
				Baluchistan Branch	9,946 2 0
				North-Western Provinces and Oudh Branch	25,000 0 0
				Native States.	
				Rajputana Branch	21,85,025 0 0
				Central India Branch	7,25,000 0 0
				Baroda „	2,50,000 0 0
				Bombay States „	7,75,000 0 0
				Hyderabad „	1,92,650 1 8
				Punjab States „	1,30,000 0 0
				Central Provinces States Branch	1,50,000 0 0
					1,38,86,450 14 4
				By amount erroneously credited to Central Executive Committee instead of to Bengal Branch	250 0 0
				„ payment to Treasury, Hazaribagh, of a sum erroneously refunded to Fund of 1897	336 13 0
				„ payment to Treasury, Nagpur, of a sum erroneously refunded to Fund of 1897	50 0 0
				„ balance with the Bank of Bengal	8,31,846 11 0
	TOTAL ₹	1,47,18,934 6 4		TOTAL ₹	1,47,18,934 6 4

NOTE.—Although grants made for British India and Native States are shown separately, they are dealt with together in Appendix I.

We have examined the above Account with the Books and Vouchers and with the Accounts rendered by the various Branches and certify same to be correct.

LOVELOCK AND LEWES,
Chartered Accountants.

A. F. COX,
Honorary Secretary.

APPENDIX H.

Dr. *Statement showing the combined Accounts of the Central, Provincial and District Committees.* Cr.

1901.	Receipts.	R	a.	p.	1901.	Expenditure.	R	a.	p.	R	a.	p.
May 31st	To total amount of subscriptions received by the Central Executive Committee	1,47,18,934	6	4		By amount expended under Object I	.....			13,94,688	8	0
						„ Ditto ditto II	.....			2,32,353	3	0
						„ Ditto ditto III	.....			5,35,219	11	0
	To local subscriptions received by Provincial and District Committees.	16,33,657	11	4		„ Ditto ditto IV	.....			1,11,90,500	2	11
	To Miscellaneous	3,43,068	1	9		By Allotments made after the dates up to which the above expenditure has been accounted for—						
						Bombay Branch, Objects I to IV	8,00,000	0	0			
						Ditto ditto II	3,438	2	2			
						Central Provinces Branch ditto	20,000	0	0			
						Rajputana Branch ditto	80,000	0	0			
										9,03,438	2	2
						By Miscellaneous Expenditure—						
						(1) Central Committee	636	13	0			
						(2) Provincial and District Committees	1,33,890	9	8			
										1,34,527	6	8
						By Closing Balances—						
						(1) With Central Committee	8,31,846	11	0			
						(2) „ Provincial Committees	3,43,075	5	8			
						(3) „ District Committees	11,30,011	1	0	23,04,933	1	8
	Total R	1,66,95,660	3	5			Total R			1,66,95,660	3	5

APPENDIX I.

CASH ACCOUNT of Provincial Committees from the commencement of operations up to the 28th February 1901.

RECEIPTS.

Names of Provincial Committees.	Remittances from Central Committee.				Local subscriptions for the Province.				Other Receipts (Miscellaneous).				Totals.			
	₹		a.	p.	₹		a.	p.	₹		a.	p.	₹		a.	p.
Bombay	49,52,505		0	0	7,50,220		1	10	1,80,274		8	2	58,82,999		10	0
Central Provinces	28,12,520		0	0	2,66,830		8	3	3,139		0	7	30,82,489		8	10
Punjab	10,05,366		8	6	2,62,521		3	4	8,682		5	7	12,76,570		1	5
Rajputana	23,30,025		0	0	99,506		2	7	82,244		13	9	25,11,776		0	4
Central India	7,25,000		0	0	65,356		11	3	11,978		14	5	8,02,335		9	8
Hyderabad (Deccan)	1,92,650		1	8	720		0	0	2,145		8	3	1,95,515		9	11
Berar	6,80,000		0	0	1,19,612		6	9	53,823		5	0	8,53,440		11	9
Baroda	2,50,000		0	0	*Nil*				774		10	0	2,50,774		10	0
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	25,000		0	0	*Nil*				*Nil*				25,000		0	0
Baluchistan	9,946		2	0	*Nil*				*Nil*				9,946		2	0
Madras	*Nil*				68,890		9	4	*Nil*				68,890		9	4
Total ₹	1,29,83,012		12	2	16,33,657		11	4	3,43,068		1	9	1,49,59,738		9	3

Note.—The amounts remitted to Provincial Branches up to 28th February will be found in Appendix F. In the case of Bombay, the Provincial Accounts are brought up only till 31st December 1900.

APPENDIX I—*contd.*

Cash Account of Provincial Committees from the commencement of operations, up to the 28th February 1901.

EXPENDITURE.

Names of Provincial Committees.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.		Total Expenditure.	Closing Balances.		Totals.
					Office expenditure.	Other expenditure.		With Provincial Committees.	With District Committees.	
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Bombay . .	5,76,232 6 0	31,675 2 1	1,44,856 0 11	42,11,315 9 11	5,181 4 9	2,745 6 6	49,72,005 14 2	69,976 10 0	8,41,017 1 10	58,82,999 10 0
Central Provinces .	2,42,817 10 0	3,098 14 2	91,162 6 10	26,86,756 1 1	4,954 5 5	9,137 8 10	30,37,926 14 4	21,480 4 1	23,082 6 5	30,82,489 8 10
Punjab . . .	20,797 13 8	20,878 15 9	92,261 4 1	11,19,235 9 9	3,573 1 10	988 4 9	12,57,735 1 10	14,756 1 1	4,078 14 6	12,76,570 1 5
Rajputana . .	2,42,633 12 6	1,33,643 7 1	98,848 4 7	17,89,138 10 9	4,744 1 4	28,916 9 10	22,97,924 14 1	1,83,929 2 1	29,922 0 2	25,11,776 0 4
Central India . .	81,157 11 10	31,600 1 8	37,780 14 1	5,34,547 14 4	604 12 2	3,771 7 7	6,89,462 13 8	6,058 0 6	1,06,814 11 6	8,02,335 9 8
Hyderabad . .	81,862 1 8	*Nil*	11,891 12 11	75,776 5 0	664 5 10	10,321 0 6	1,80,515 9 11	15,000 0 0	*Nil*	1,95,515 9 11
Berar . . .	1,19,557 11 7	5,317 14 5	12,180 0 6	5,65,250 5 3	2,266 6 7	55,235 2 9	7,59,807 9 1	3,782 1 11	89,851 0 9	8,53,440 11 9
Baroda . . .	29,383 6 9	6,138 11 10	31,533 12 7	1,75,469 6 10	261 11 11	134 6 9	2,42,921 8 8	582 6 0	7,270 11 4	2,50,774 10 0
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	*Nil*	*Nil*	2,190 0 0	22,810 0 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	25,000 0 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	25,000 0 0
Baluchistan . .	245 14 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	9,700 4 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	9,946 2 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	9,946 2 0
Madras . . .	*Nil*	*Nil*	12,515 2 6	500 0 0	390 8 4	*Nil*	13,405 10 10	27,510 12 0	27,974 2 6	68,890 9 4
Total ₹ .	13,94,688 8 0	2,32,353 3 0	5,35,219 11 0	1,11,90,500 2 11	22,640 10 2	1,11,249 15 6	1,34,86,652 2 7	3,43,075 5 8	11,30,011 1 9	1,49,59,738 9 3

APPENDIX K.

OBJECT I.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	By gift of clothing or blankets.		By addition of extra food or medical comforts in Government poor-houses, hospitals and kitchens.		By addition to Government dole in gratuitous relief.		Other forms of Relief.		Total number of persons relieved under Object I.	Total Cost.
	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.		
		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	769,631	5,76,232 6 0
Central Provinces . . .	293,918	2,21,663 4 7	34,024	16,951 12 11	1,198	1,429 3 2	3,175	2,773 5 3	332,315	2,42,817 10 0
Punjab	11,544	10,700 4 9	30,499	4,556 4 11	*Nil*	*Nil*	76,939	4,377 4 0	118,982	20,797 13 8
Rajputana	134,271	1,02,432 4 6	348,638	88,182 3 10	115,305	39,311 10 8	186,012	12,707 9 6	784,226	2,42,633 12 6
Central India . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81,157 11 10
Hyderabad	87,196	81,370 7 5	...	491 10 3	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	87,196	81,862 1 8
Berar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213,464	1,19,557 11 7
Baroda	17,944	7,202 6 9	18,370	20,215 2 4	*Nil*	*Nil*	1,081	1,965 13 8	37,395	29,383 6 9
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
Baluchistan	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	29	245 14 0	29	245 14 0
Madras	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*

Full details have not yet been received from Bombay, Berar and Central India.

NOTE.—Different provinces have obviously proceeded on different principles in calculating the number of persons relieved under Object I.

APPENDIX K—*contd.*

OBJECT II.

1	2	3	4	5	6
By subsidies to private orphanages.		By addition of extra food or clothing or medical comforts to orphans supported from State Funds.		Total number of orphans (Cols. 1 and 3).	Total Cost.
	Number of orphans in the subsidized orphanages.	Amount of subsidies.	Number of orphans supplied.	Cost.	
		R a. p.		*R a. p.*	*R a. p.*
Bombay	...	...	...	...	10,050	31,675 2 1
Central Provinces	182	240 4 0	3,137	2,858 10 2	3,319	3,098 14 2
Punjab	1,904	20,716 12 0	42	162 3 9	1,946	20,878 15 9
Rajputana	92,350	1,14,590 5 10	15,355	19,053 1 3	107,705	1,33,643 7 1
Central India	...	...	...	...	...	31,600 1 8
Hyderabad	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
Berar	...	...	...	...	1,539	5,317 14 5
Baroda	1,797	5,788 11 10	334	350 0 0	2,131	6,138 11 10
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
Baluchistan	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
Madras	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*

Full details have not yet been received from Bombay, Berar and Central India.

APPENDIX K.—*contd.*

OBJECT III.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
By gift of clothing or blankets.		By money or grain dole.		By means of cheap grain shops.		By providing work in their trade to respectable poor (not being the artizans and petty shop-keepers, etc., helped under Object IV).		Total number of persons relieved under Object III.	TOTAL COST.
	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons, *i.e.*, who receive grain shop tickets.	Cost (*i.e.*, net loss to Fund resulting from the operations of the shop).	Number of persons.	Net amount spent after taking into account Profit and Loss to Fund by sale or disposal of articles delivered in return for advances (of money or materials) made to them.		
		₹ *a. p.*		₹ *a. p.*		₹ *a. p.*		₹ *a. p.*		₹ *a. p.*
Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	405,425	1,44,856 0 11
Central Provinces . .	43,706	38,090 5 9	13,999	26,649 14 9	56,784	21,571 2 10	2,182	4,850 15 6	116,671	91,162 6 10
Punjab	4,603	5,532 13 6	1,234,519	80,400 6 9	14,215	2,239 12 4	47,693	4,088 3 6	1,301,030	92,261 4 1
Rajputana . . .	5,037	5,254 9 9	159,872	53,001 8 7	250	22 15 0	6,860	40,569 3 3	172,019	98,848 4 7
Central India . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,780 14 1
Hyderabad . . .	4,095	4,113 8 1	4,626	7,778 4 10	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	8,721	11,891 12 11
Berar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,380	12,180 0 6
Baroda	3,703	2,455 1 2½	23,312	28,592 15 4½	3,214	485 12 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	30,229	31,533 12 7
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	4,235	2,000 0 0	168	190 0 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	4,403	2,190 0 0
Baluchistan . . .	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*
Madras	1,424	849 0 0	8,790	7,260 2 6	172,473	3,989 0 0	180	417 0 0	182,687	12,515 2 6

Full details have not yet been received from Bombay, Berar and Central India.

NOTE.—Different provinces have obviously proceeded on different principles in calculating the number of persons relieved under Object III.

APPENDIX K.—*concld.*

OBJECT IV.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
By giving seed grain, fodder, bullocks, implements of husbandry, or cash to purchase them, to broken-down agriculturists.			By helping artizans and petty shopkeepers and the like (not being the respectable poor in columns 7 and 8 under Object III).		By valedictory doles to persons in receipt of Government relief on the closing of such relief.		Total number of persons helped and relieved under Object IV.	Total Cost.
	Number of agriculturists relieved.	Approximate area of their lands.	Cost.	Number of persons helped.	Cost.	Number of persons receiving the doles.	Cost.		
			₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
Bombay	...	Uncertain.	...	...	...	...	...	556,641	42,11,315 9 11
Central Provinces . .	382,498		26,65,398 14 10	10,509	14,846 11 3	3,185	6,510 7 0	396,192	26,86,756 1 1
Punjab	98,735		11,09,359 2 9	1,061	7,177 5 0	2,000	2,499 2 0	101,796	11,19,235 9 9
Rajputana	319,441		17,29,094 10 7	4,323	13,086 13 3	48,960	46,957 2 11	372,724	17,79,138 10 9
Central India . . .	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	5,34,547 14 4
Hyderabad . . .	1,809		75,041 5 0	49	735 0 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	1,858	75,776 5 0
Berar	...		...	...	...	...	...	54,000	5,65,250 5 3
Baroda	32,459		1,71,169 6 10	479	4,100 0 0	41	200 0 0	32,979	1,75,469 6 10
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	18,275		22,052 0 0	145	758 0 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	18,420	22,810 0 0
Baluchistan . . .	573		9,700 4 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	573	9,700 4 0
Madras . . .	250		500 0 0	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	*Nil*	250	500 0 0

Full details have not yet been received from Bombay, Berar and Central India.

REPORT OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY FAMINE RELIEF FUND, FROM OCTOBER 1899 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1900.

The Famine of 1899-1900 will long be remembered as one of the worst that has ever visited the Bombay Presidency, both as regards the area affected and the heavy loss of life it entailed. Early in October 1899 the gravity of the situation was realised, and at a meeting of a few gentlemen specially interested in the subject, held on October 12th, it was unanimously decided that a Committee should at once be formed, to consider "what steps should be taken to relieve the distress caused by the Famine now prevailing in the Bombay Presidency." The Committee subsequently appointed decided, after communicating with His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, that arrangements should at once be made to hold a public meeting in the Town Hall, with a view of bringing to the notice of the public the necessity of starting a "Presidency Famine Relief Fund." A public meeting convened by the Sheriff was accordingly held in the Town Hall on November 16th, presided over by His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, who came down specially from Poona to show his sympathy with the movement. Resolutions were passed, strong appeals were made to the public for assistance, and a General Committee was appointed to carry out the objects for which "The Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund" was that day inaugurated. The objects of the Fund were summarised as follows:—

1. To supplement the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospital, for children, and the like.
2. To provide for the maintenance of orphans.
3. To relieve the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied, as it must be, by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of, the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved.
4. To restore to their original position, when acute distress has subsided, those who have lost their all in the struggle and to give them a fresh start in life.

The General Committee subsequently elected the following:—

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

President.

The Hon'ble SIR LAWRENCE JENKINS, *Kt.*

Vice-Presidents.

SIR JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY, *Bart.*
The Right Revd. THE LORD BISHOP OF BOMBAY.

Members of Committee.

The Most Rev. Theodore Dalhoff, Archbishop of Bombay.
Jamsetji N. Tata, Esq.
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. G. Renade.
The Hon'ble Mr. Gokuldas Kahandas Parekh.
The Hon'ble Mr. Vijbhucandas Atmaram.
The Hon'ble Mr. Bomanji Dinshaw Petit.
The Hon'ble Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtula.
The Hon'ble Mr. N. G. Chandavarkar.
Rahimtoola Mahomed Sayani, Esq.
C. M. Cursetji, Esq.
B. M. Malabari, Esq.
J. Sanders-Slater, Esq.
Dinshaw Edulji Wacha, Esq.
Dr. Cowasji Hormasji.
R. H. Macaulay, Esq.
Hartley Kennedy, Esq.
H. E. Procter, Esq.
W. L. Harvey, Esq.
R. D. Setna, Esq.
Khan Bahadur Darasha R. Chichgar.
Shapurji B. Bharucha, Esq.
K. N. Kabraji, Esq.
Lakhamsay Napoo, Esq.
Naranji Dwarkadas, Esq.
Goverdhandas Khatao Makanji, Esq.
James Macdonald, Esq.
Virchand Deepchand, Esq., C.I.E.
Chimanlal H. Setalwad, Esq.
Dharamsi Morarji Gokuldas, Esq.
Rao Saheb Vasanji Khimji
Kharsetji N. Wadia, Esq.
Fakirchand Premchand, Esq.
Vithaldas Damodar Thakersey Mulji, Esq.
Sardar Haji Casum Mitha.
Karimji Adamji Pirbhoy, Esq.

Members of Committee—contd.

Haji Yusuf Haji Ismail.	R. B. Keshavjee Nathoo Sailor.
Dr. Ismail Jan Mahomed.	Khimji Jairam Narranji, Esq.
Jeangir B. Marzban, Esq.	Bhaishankar Nanabhai, Esq.
K. M. Shroff, Esq.	Sarafali Mamooji, Esq.
Jeejeebhoy M. M. Jeejeebhoy, Esq.	Professor O. V. Muller.
Nanabhoy R. Ranina, Esq.	J. Begbie, Esq.
Khan Bahadur M. C. Marzban.	The Hon'ble Mr. T. C. Burke.
Ratonsi Mulji, Esq.	F. C. Macrae, Esq.
Karamsi Damji, Esq.	Rev. J. Henderson.
Damodardas Goverdhandas, Esq.	Rev. R. M. Gray.

Honorary Secretaries.

Sir George Cotton, *Kt.*	Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, *Kt.*
Goverdhandas Goculdas Tejpal, Esq.	Narandas Purshottamdas, Esq.
The Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta.	Fazalbhoy Vishram, Esq.

N. S. Glazebrook, Esq.

The Executive Committee met on the 18th December, when the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That the management and distribution of the funds of the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund of 1899-1900 be left to a Working Committee consisting of—

The Hon'ble Sir Lawrence Jenkins, *Kt.*	The Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta.
The Lord Bishop of Bombay.	Mr. Narandas Purushottamdas.
Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, *Bart.*	Mr. Fazalbhoy Visram.
Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, *Kt.*	Mr. G. Goculdas Tejpal.
Sir George Cotton, *Kt.*	Mr. N. S. Glazebrook.

The Working Commitee elected Mr. N. S. Glazebrook as Honorary Secretary and they at once took steps to obtain information from the Commissioners, Famine Officers, and Collectors in the Presidency regarding "the extent and character of the distress caused by famine, and the direction in which private charity could usefully supplement Government aid, and also what trustworthy organisations were in existence for distributing relief from the Charitable Relief Fund which had been started."

The replies received from the various districts of the Presidency showed that a large amount of help would be necessary if to any appreciable extent the distress was to be successfully relieved. Local Committees were, with the assistance of the Collectors, at once appointed in the districts where it was possible, while in the Native States and Political Agencies, the officers in charge at once came forward and offered personally to superintend the distributions of any grants from the Bombay Committee for relief in their districts. As in its inception the Fund was purely local, and therefore comparatively small, grants were necessarily restricted to urgent cases; so that applications for assistance from the Fund had now and again to be delayed until the amount available for distribution by the Committee increased. The starting of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Calcutta, and the consequent general appeal for help largely increased the funds in the hands of the Bombay Committee available for distribution. Following the procedure adopted in the Famine of 1897, the Bombay Relief Fund was made a Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and the large grants received through the Executive Committee, Calcutta, soon enabled the Bombay Committee to meef the demands made upon them in a much more liberal and satisfactory manner than had been previously possible; for while the local Fund started, as it was early in the year, was the means of rendering valuable assistance to many urgent cases at the commencement of the distress, its capacity was wholly out of proportion to the demands of distress.

The Committee consequently heartily welcome and desire here again to acknowledge the liberal grants sent by the Executive Committee in Calcutta. The Committee, when making grants for the various districts within their area of relief operations, have been guided by the reports they have from time to time received from the Chairmen of the various District Committees, Political Agents, Commissioners, Collectors and the numerous Secretaries to the Religious Societies and Charitable Institutions working in the Presidency, and also by

the weekly returns supplied to them by Government, showing the numbers on "relief works" throughout the Presidency.

In order that the views of the Bombay Committee regarding the formation of the District Committees and the distribution of the grants should be clearly understood by the various district officers who had kindly undertaken to form Committees in their districts, the following circular was sent to them:—

"I am asked to inform you that a special meeting of the Committee of the above Fund was called recently to meet the Honourable Mr. Smeaton, C.I.E. (who has been placed on special duty by the Governor-General in Council in connection with the distribution of the funds of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund). The question of the general distribution of the Fund was discussed, and it was decided at Mr. Smeaton's suggestion that the attention of all Local Committees should be drawn to the following notes and suggestions:—

1st—That owing to the excessive mortality among cattle the applications for grants under *object* 4 will be much larger than was the case in 1897, and owing to the scarcity of cattle the cost per head to the fund when buying them will also be more than in 1897.

2nd—That under the circumstances mentioned above and bearing in mind the fact that the Fund is comparatively speaking a small one, it will be quite impossible to follow the system adopted in 1897 of making *free gifts* of plough-bullocks to the cultivators.

3rd—That it is therefore necessary that some more economical plan should, if possible, be tried, and it is proposed that with the grant made to them from the General Fund, the Local Committees should purchase bullocks and hand them over to trustees appointed for the purpose in each village, and who would lend them to the cultivators in turn, the cost of keeping the bullocks to be a charge on the Fund.

4th—Or if the above idea could not be carried out it was suggested that the Local Committees should merely advance sufficient money to the ryots to enable them to hire bullocks in the different villages.

5th—The committee think that in districts where there is a fair supply of bullocks available for the purpose and could be hired by the ryots the second proposal could perhaps be most suitable, and with the assistance of the Local Committee and Revenue officials, Mr. Smeaton thought it might work well, but in districts where cattle would have to be imported the first proposal would perhaps work best.

6th—That it is important to bear in mind that the Funds available for distribution are not large compared with the amount of distress, and consequently some such system as sketched out in paras. 4 and 5 is very necessary and should prove to be the means of giving relief to a much larger proportion of the distressed agriculturists than would be the case if *free gifts* of cattle were made, which, owing to the funds being small, would only assist a comparative few.

7th—It is important to bear in mind that grants made under object 4, should *not* be distributed so as to restore a few thousand cultivators to comparative *affluence*, but rather with a view of endeavouring to assist the many thousands of those that have lost their all to make a fresh start by lending them cattle and giving them money to buy seed with, to enable them to raise a fair sized crop, and thus make them once more eligible for assistance from the sowcars.

8th—That the Fund being subscribed by the "public" it should be the aim of those forming the Local Committees to see that a fair proportion of their members consist of the non-official residents of the district. The assistance of Missionaries and other non-officials who are willing to spend their time in seeking out and succouring the destitute should be encouraged as much as possible.

9th—In sending you these notes and suggestions, the Bombay Committee do not wish to tie the hands of your Local Committee in any way. They fully realise that a system which proves suitable in one district, might be failure in another, and that the Members of the Local Committees are the best people to decide how to utilise to the best advantage the funds placed at their disposal. They wish, however, to draw your attention to the fact that compared with 1897 the funds for distribution are at present small, and it is therefore very necessary that those in charge of the distribution should make each rupee go, as far as possible, towards relieving distress.

10th—The Bombay Committee would be glad to receive any suggestion you have to make on the subjects mentioned in above circular.

Yours truly,
N. S. GLAZEBROOK,
Hony. Secretary."

In this connection it may be remarked that the Bombay Committee have not been able to assure themselves that in the actual working of the Local Committees the non-official members have taken as active a part as is desirable to ensure the most satisfactory distribution of the funds.

The working Committee have endeavoured to distribute the funds placed at their disposal among the various up-country Committees as promptly as possible, and with this object in view numerous Committee Meetings have been held at which the applications for assistance from the Fund were carefully considered. In urgent cases the grants have been sanctioned by circulars and despatched promptly to the applicants.

Cheap Fodder Scheme.

The heavy mortality among the cattle was a special feature of the Famine and it indirectly caused a considerable amount of distress among the poorer class of agriculturists. It was suggested that with a view of assisting them in their efforts to keep their cattle alive, the Committee should make a special grant for the purpose of reducing the price of fodder. The Hon'ble Mr. Lely, Commissioner, Northern Division, addressed the Committee very fully on the subject early in April and pointed out that—

(1) A great many cattle had died for want of proper food.
(2) The price asked for the grass at that time was quite beyond the means of the poorer cultivators.

He explained that practically only the best working animals were kept, and those the people had only managed to keep alive by great efforts. The few that were kept in the villages were rapidly becoming emaciated, and unless assistance was given at once they would either die like the others had, or become quite useless for work by the time the rains set in. He urged that a special effort should be made to assist the poorer cultivators in their attempts to keep their remaining animals alive, and said that in his opinion a supply of cheap fodder was about the greatest boon the Charitable Fund could confer on them. He appealed to the Committee for a grant to enable him to supply all deserving cultivators with grass at ₹2 per 1,000 lbs. as against ₹10 per 1,000 lbs. charged at the various grass centres established by Government. The Committee, after a personal interview with the Hon'ble Mr. Lely, at which he explained the details of his scheme, decided to make a grant of ₹50,000 to enable the plan to be properly tested. Subsequently, on receiving favourable reports on the working of the scheme, and being assured that steps were taken to see that only the poor and deserving cultivators benefited by it, the Committee increased the grant to *Two Lacs* and authorised similar assistance from the Fund to be given in other parts of the Presidency. The accounts since received show that the help thus given enabled many poor people to keep their cattle alive. Indirectly many of them were thus given a "fresh start in life" insomuch as when the rains came they were able to commence farm operations at once and thus earn a living by using the cattle that had been saved by the "Cheap Fodder Scheme." A member of the working Committee has recently returned from a short tour in Gujerat and has reported to the Committee that after making full enquiries on the subject he is satisfied that the money spent on the "Cheap Fodder Scheme" has done immence good to, and been greatly appreciated by, the poor agriculturists.

Purchase of cattle.

In addition to making grants to provide "cheap fodder" the Committee also authorised grants for the purpose of buying cattle to replace some of those that had died ; a large number of animals were in this way imported, especially into Gujerat and Kathiawar, on behalf of the Fund, and either lent or sold at reduced prices to those cultivators whose cattle had died. The system of distributing the cattle thus purchased differed in different districts, but from all sides the reports show that an immense amount of good was done and large tracts of land were cultivated which otherwise would have lain fallow.

Reports from District Committees.

The Committee have to acknowledge, with thanks, the numerous interesting reports they have received from the Chairmen or Secretaries of the District Committees and others to whom grants have been sent for distribution. Space

will not admit of them all being included in this Report, but the extracts which are given in the Appendix show clearly that the grants have been fully appreciated and have greatly assisted in relieving the distress that prevailed throughout the Presidency.

Maintenance of orphans.

The Committee have, from time to time, made special grants for the maintenance of orphans and have now before them full reports regarding the number of orphans admitted into the various institutions throughout the Presidency, and a further sum of Rupees One Lac will shortly be distributed under this head.

Subscriptions, etc.

The Committee desire to thank many subscribers to the Local Fund whose names are appended to this report and also those who have otherwise lent their aid. To particularise individuals would be invidious, but it will be pardonable to make a special reference to the R80,193-9-4 for which the Committee are indebted to those who organized and conducted the Fancy Fair and also to the R12,000 representing the Queen's Birth-Day Gift Fund started by the Proprietors of the *Times of India*. In addition to actual pecuniary assistance the Committee have received other contributions they desire to acknowledge, and in particular 1,000 blankets from the Agents of the Cawnpore Woollen Mills, and 1,380 bags of wheat and 904 bags of flour from Australia through the Mayor of Sydney, which were carried by the P. & O. Co. free of charge.

District Reports.

The Committee regret to say that the accounts lately received from many of the District Committees are far from satisfactory, and it is evident that a considerable amount of distress still exists. Further applications for grants from the Fund have been received lately, and it is feared that owing to the short rainfall in some districts and the early cessation of the rains in most parts of the Presidency, the later crops have not done well and distress among the cultivators is likely to increase during the next few months. The Executive Committee, Calcutta, however, realise the situation, and at the request of the Bombay Committee have placed a further grant of *eight Lacs of Rupees* at their disposal to enable them to render the assistance they anticipate will be necessary later on.

Finance.

The total amount distributed by the Committee up to the end of the year was R53,12,745-10-6 as per details in the Appendix. The *Receipts* amounted to R53,84,674-6-4, details of which are also printed in the Appendix, while the Balance in hand on December 31st was R69,976-10-0.

Before closing the report the members of the Committee—other than Mr. Glazebrook—desire to place on record their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Glazebrook as the Committee's Honorary Secretary. His devotion to the work has from the first been unremitting, and it is not too much to ascribe to him whatever good results may be found in the Committee's administration.

L. JENKINS	*President.*
L. BOMBAY JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY	*Vice-Presidents.*
BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA P. M. MEHTA NARANDASS PURSOTUMDASS FAZALBHOY VISRAM. GOVERDHANDASS G. TEJPAL	*Members of the Working Committee.*
N. S. GLAZEBROOK,	*Hony. Secretary.*

BOMBAY,
December 31st, 1900.

Financial Statement from October 1899 to December 1900.

RECEIPTS.	₹	a.	p.
Subscriptions paid into the Bank of Bombay	3,37,757	14	8
Received from *Times of India* (Queen's Birth-Day Gift Fund)	12,000	0	0
Proceeds of "Fancy Fair"	80,193	9	4
Interest Account	1,655	4	10
Refund ,,	567	9	6
Grants from the Executive Committee (Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund), Calcutta	49,52,500	0	0
TOTAL ₹	53,84,674	6	4

EXPENDITURE.	₹	a.	p.
Grants paid to Northern Division	24,51,100	0	0
,, ,, Central ,,	20,91,680	4	0
,, ,, Southern ,,	16,300	0	0
,, ,, Kathiawar ,,	5,66,000	0	0
,, ,, Other Districts	1,76,970	0	0
,, ,, from Queen's Birth-Day Gift Fund	10,695	6	6
Honorary Secretary's Petty Cash Account*	1,500	0	0
Banks Petty Cash Account	12	15	0
Expenses *re* Public Meeting	439	2	10
Balance—31st December 1900	69,976	10	0
TOTAL ₹	53,84,674	6	4

* Details will be given in the final account.

N. S. GLAZEBROOK,
Honorary Secretary.

BOMBAY,
31st December 1900.

Details of Grants.

	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.
Northern Division—						
Commissioner*	1,23,987	11	11			
Broach	2,93,080	1	5			
Ahmedabad	6,40,425	2	7			
Kaira	5,04,189	7	8			
Panch Mahals	2,58,132	8	5			
Palanpur	2,76,000	0	0			
Rewa Kantha	1,28,935	0	0			
Mahi Kantha	1,73,000	0	0			
Surat	49,000	0	0			
Thana	4,350	0	0			
				24,51,100	0	0
Central Division—						
Nasik	2,70,200	0	0			
Satara	1,55,500	0	0			
Sholapore	3,36,000	0	0			
Ahmednuggur	4,56,200	0	0			
Khandeish	6,13,780	4	0			
Poona	2,60,000	0	0			
				20,91,680	4	0
Southern Division—						
Bijapore	8,000	0	0			
Belgaum	4,300	0	0			
Ratnagiri	3,000	0	0			
Dharwar	1,000	0	0			
				16,300	0	0
Other Districts—						
Kathiawar	5,66,000	0	0			
Sindh	55,000	0	0			
Cutch	20,750	0	0			
Kolhapore	11,500	0	0			
Cambay	15,500	0	0			
Akalkote	30,000	0	0			
Miraj	2,000	0	0			
Jamnuggur	5,000	0	0			
Idar *per* Church Missionary Society	21,000	0	0			
Bombay†	13,000	0	0			
				7,39,750	0	0
(*Earmarked Subscription*)—						
Sindh, Thar and Parker	400	0	0			
Rajputana-Malwa	600	0	0			
Central Provinces	1,000	0	0			
Berar	500	0	0			
Central India	500	0	0			
Bombay	220	0	0	3,220	0	0
TOTAL GRANTS	.....			53,02,050	4	0

	₹	a.	p.
*Cheap Fodder	71,489	10	0
Milk, Mellin's Food, etc.	25,336	5	6
Orphans	4,450	0	0
Balance in hand on 31st December	22,711	12	5
TOTAL	1,23,987	11	11

† Includes ₹7,000 for Orphans and ₹3,000 to the Municipal Commissioner for expenses towards Hospital for Famine Refugees.

The full details showing how the above grants were distributed by the various District Committees are not to hand yet, but will be given in a later report.

N. S. GLAZEBROOK,
Honorary Secretary.

BOMBAY,
31st December 1900.

Queen's Birth-Day Gift Famine Relief Fund.

Receipts.

By Cheques from *Times of India** (May to December 31st)	£	12,000	0 0

Disbursements.

	R	a.	p.
To Cheque to Commissioner, Northern Division	700	0	0
Do. Collector, Panch Mahals	750	0	0
Do. do. Kaira	700	0	0
Do. do. Ahmedabad	500	0	0
Do. do. Broach	250	0	0
Do. P. A., Mahi Kantha	150	0	0
Do. do. Palanpur	800	0	0
Do. Collector, Surat	300	0	0
Do. do. Ahmednuggur	200	0	0
Do. do. Nasik	100	0	0
Do. do. Khandeish	400	0	0
Do. Famine Officer, Kathiawar	300	0	0
Do. Suba Nasowari	300	0	0
Do. Surat Orphanage	550	0	0
Do. Ahmedabad Orphanage	300	0	0
Do. Lady Northcote Orphanage	200	0	0
Do. Mrs. Hume's Orphanage	200	0	0
Do. Mrs. E. T. Elton, Poona	200	0	0
Do. Mr. Whittle, Viramgaum	100	0	0
Cost of 1,450 Blankets sent to Sholapur, Poona, Nuggur, Satara, Nasik and Khandeish	1,255	9	0
Cost of 1,481 Blankets sent to Kathiawar, Wadwan and Ahmedabad	2,439	13	6
Balance in hand on 31st December 1900	1,304	9	6
	* 12,000	0	0

* Since 31st December 1900, a further sum of R418-15-10 has been sent by the *Times of India*.

N. S. GLAZEBROOK,
Hony. Treasurer.

Extracts from Reports from the Districts.

SHOLAPUR.

The Collector has sent an interesting Report, from which the following extracts are taken :—

"In April 1900 the Bombay Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund sent their first help, remitting a sum of ₹60,000. They subsequently sent ₹2,65,000 in various instalments, making a splendid total of ₹3,25,000. This money has been mostly distributed by the Collector and his subordinate Officers. Only one private gentleman was invited to co-operate with Government Officers outside the City, as, except him, none were either willing or competent to undertake the work.

The main item of expenditure under *Object I*, pertains to clothing supplied to persons on relief works, in poor-houses and kitchens and on village dole, who were in urgent want of it. Wages on relief works being just sufficient to keep them alive in good condition, they had nothing to buy clothes with. What clothes they had were mostly rags, often insufficient for ordinary decency. Just before the advent of the monsoon of 1900, a great number of blankets and also additional clothes were given to the most indigent to save them from wet and chills. From the number of persons thus relieved, it will be seen that a very large proportion of the persons in receipt of State relief were provided with clothing from the Charitable Relief Fund. Their gratitude was intense.

Object II.—Rupees 2,000 were given to the Pandharpur Orphanage for the maintenance of 20 Orphan Children found on works and in villages. A number of others were sent to the American Mission at Sholapur. From this district and the surrounding country the Mission have accepted the care of about 500 children, and I have just made them a grant of ₹5,000 towards their support.

Object III.—Out of ₹13,470-13 a sum of ₹10,185-9-6 was expended on the relief of *Pardahnishin* women and other respectable persons in Sholapur City ; this being entrusted to the Huzur Deputy Collector aided by the Municipal Secretary, Mr. Pitre, and Messrs. Hanmandas, Kanayalal, Pir Mahomed Dafedar and Abansaheb Fulmandi, leading citizens of the town. There is a large Mahomedan population in the City of Sholapur, who are mostly in wretched circumstances, and consequently the sum expended on the relief of their women was large also. In the rest of this district, this work was entrusted to the Mamlatdars. Three grain shops were opened at Sholapur, two by private gentlemen and one by public subscriptions. They were managed by Committees of native gentlemen and afforded much relief to the respectable poor. Admission was by tickets, and these were distributed, after personal enquiry, to distressed people earning an honest living. The system was very successfully worked. I have not the figures of the two private shops. but the third one, which was carried on under my own supervision and that of my Huzur Deputy, assisted by a Non-Official Committee, the result of a year's working was that we sold ₹50,000 worth of grain, giving, 1½ lbs. per rupee more than the market rate, and the total cost came to ₹5,000 only. This form of relief was very much appreciated. For this third cheap grain shop, I gave ₹3,000 out of the Charitable Relief Fund at the close of the first year's working.

Object IV.—About half the amount of the total Fund (₹3,36,000), received from the Bombay Committee, was expended on Object IV, ₹1,34,239-11-0 being spent on the purchase of seed and bullocks alone for distribution among poor agriculturists. Unfortunately the season of 1900 was again very unfavourable, the rainfall being most deficient and capricious. The gifts of seed and bullocks did not, therefore, help the ryots so much as had been hoped. Great part of the seed was destroyed by drought and many of the bullocks had to be sold again. The rest of the money was utilised in helping artizans, particularly weavers, to earn a living by their usual avocations. The success of the Weaver Relief Scheme, in Sholapur City, was most marked. It was—save for an initial advance from the Municipality of ₹2,000—entirely financed from the Charitable Fund. Three weaving sheds were started for destitute artizans, who had no looms and implements of their own, while advances of yarn and money were made to those who had the means of carrying on their craft in their own houses. At the height of the distress we were giving work to no less than 8,000 people, paying them wages and taking the finished product, which we used for distribution on works and poor-houses. This part of the Charitable Fund money thus served a double purpose; it provided work for the weavers and it gave us clothes for gifts to other distressed people. Altogether over ₹30,000 have been spent in this way, and the loss will not, it is hoped, come to more than ₹5,000 while the amount of good done has been immense. I was fortunate enough to secure a grant of ₹5,000 from the Americo-Indian Relief Committee in aid of this branch of our operations. The experiment was, I believe, the biggest that has yet been attempted in India. This experiment of weaver relief then, has proved, I think I may say, a complete success. I hope at the end of the present famine to establish, with the aid of the Funds remaining in hands, a sort of Weavers' Guild under Municipal supervision, to save these artizans from the money-lenders, who at present make 60 to 70 per cent. out of them, and keep them in the direst poverty all their lives."

NASIK.

The following extracts are taken from the Report, submitted by the Collector, who was President of the District Committee :—

"The famine of 1900 has affected all parts of the Nasik District more or less, and every part of this district has received relief in some one or more of the several forms, in which it is administered.

One distinctive feature of this famine has been the scarcity of fodder and water, but as regards the fodder difficulty, the ryots owe a debt to the Indian F. C. R. Fund, from which an allotment of ₹10,000 was obtained specially for the purpose of cheapening for them the cost of grass sold at the Government Depôts, of which there were three in the district. The condition of the Hill tribes in the Western part of the district was a special source of anxiety to the Famine Administration: the experiment of opening cheap grain shops, suggested by the Famine Commission, was tried—and tried successfully—in this district. The money for covering the loss, which the experiment entailed, was all supplied by the District Committee out of the Charitable Fund, and the total amount expended in this direction up to the close of October was about ₹6,000. Another experiment, *viz.*, the introduction of Manual Ploughs was chiefly financed from the Charitable Fund. But expense was not great, as cultivators did not take kindly to the innovation. The opening of relief works and the institution of central village kitchens and poor-houses has indeed saved thousands of lives by giving them food and shelter. But the want of clothing, which specially affected the people in the rains, was met from the Charitable Fund. A little over ₹23,000 were expended from this source up to the close of October last, in the supply of blankets and clothes to indigent persons: and in addition to this *Lugdies* and other clothing, woven by weavers at Nasik and Sinnar, who were assisted in their trade from the Charitable Fund, were distributed to workers at three different Relief Camps just before they were closed. This supply of clothing comes under Head I. of the objects of the fund and constitutes the principal item under that head. The other two items under the same head are "extra comforts to inmates of poor-houses" and "grants made to Leper Asylum at Nasik City." About ₹700 were spent on extra comforts; and grants to the Leper Asylum amounted to ₹1,400. These latter grants were made to Miss Harvey, Lady Superintendent, Zenana Mission (who administers the Asylum), in consideration of the abnormal increase in the number of inmates due to the famine.

The only class of people that could not, in view of their social position, openly take advantage of the Government measures for famine relief, were the respectable poor, and as this class is chiefly confined to towns, the Sub-Committees at the four principal towns of the district, *viz.*, Nasik, Sinnar, Yeola and Malagaon, were authorized to distribute relief to deserving people under head III. About ₹10,000 were distributed in this way up to the close of October. Some persons of similar status, resident in villages, were similarly helped on the recommendation of the Revenue Sub-Divisional Officers. Much of the money received from Bombay was expended under Head IV., more than a lac having been distributed by the close of October for the supply of seed and bullocks to pauper cultivators. This was effected principally through the Agency of the Sub-Divisional Officers and Mamlatdars. Help was also given to weavers at Nasik, Yeola and Sinnar, a little over ₹6,000 having been spent for the purpose. Another method, in which the fund money was usefully distributed, was the payment of subsistence allowance for a few days to indigent cultivators leaving relief camps to resume cultivation.

I have applied for a further grant of ₹25,000 (and sincerely hope that an allotment will be made at an early date) for the relief of destitute orphans. These have been mostly made over to the Church Missionary Society's Orphanage at Saharanpur, near Nasik, which did much good work in the famine of 1896-97, and, in consequence, received a special grant of ₹10,000 from the Famine Fund. The number of orphans in the present famine is larger just as the famine is more severe.

To conclude with some general information, it may be noted that in June last, workers, dependants and incapable indigents on relief in this district, reached a maximum, that of about 1,03,000, *i.e.*, about 13 per cent. of the total population of the district (8,40,000). Again the allotment to this district from the Central Charitable Relief Fund Committee has been about ₹2,60,000. Our District Committee comprised both Officials and Non-Officials, Christians, Hindus and a Mussalman, all combined in the common work of relieving the famine-stricken.

To my fellow members on the District Committee, to the Official and non-Official gentlemen, who aided in the distribution of Charitable Relief and to the Central Bombay Committee, which generously met our applications for funds, I beg hereby to tender my very sincere thanks."

SATARA.

The Collector writes, as under, regarding the distribution of the grants received from the Executive Committee, Bombay :—

"On the 29th December 1899, he (the Collector) presided at a public meeting in Satara, when a Committee was formed for the purpose of collecting money. A smaller

Committee of management was at the same time formed, to whom the duty of distributing the funds was entrusted; but the work of distributing the money was mostly done by individuals to whom it was allotted by the Committee.

The Committee has, up to now (21st December 1900), received subscriptions from the Satara District, amounting to R2,598-2-8, and from the Bombay Committee R1,55,500 through the Commissioner, C. D.

The bulk of the money has been distributed to the Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors. These Officers have distributed large sums with their own hands, in some cases, however, entrusting money to their Mamlatdars and receiving help from them. I have adopted this system in preference to establishing a lot of small sub-committees, as it tends to prompter work and to less chance of dishonesty.

The latest figures available show the following distributions :—

	R	a.	p.
Object I	7,167	2	11
Object II	*Nil.*		
Object III	4,724	8	6
Object IV	83,964	8	9
Miscellaneous	141	1	6 "

AHMEDABAD.

The following extracts are taken from the Collector's Report :—

" Famine was declared; and the first relief work was opened as early as September 1899. The state of things continued till at last the belated monsoon burst on July 14th, 1900. Even this was followed by a week of suspense; but then rain fell again and excellent sowing weather with light but piquent showers gave promise of bumper crops. The black soil country, which grows unirrigated wheat, has been fairly well sown, mostly with the help of your charitable funds. It remains to show briefly the uses to which your timely grants from the Central Relief Fund have been and are being put.

The monies received have all been distributed under my directions by the sub-divisional Officers, and others in their charges. I have not called for figures from all these Officers, firstly because operations are not yet over, and secondly because they and I have still much work to do, and a general report is, I imagine, all you want. The money distribution falls under three chief heads : (1) Help to agriculturists, (2) Doles to the respectable poor, who shun the publicity of Government grant; and (3) Miscellaneous.

(1) The agricultural classes, on whom the blow fell heaviest have, of course, been the first recipients of help. They have received seed and subsistance allowances to enable them to cultivate their fields during last rains and in the present cold weather. Cattle were also given or, in a few cases, lent them for this purpose, and those who had but little land took to hand cultivation and sowed the seed given them after preparing the soil with the native pick or the hand-plough as desired by Mr. Mollison, the Deputy Director of Agriculture. Fodder was poured into the district all through last year as fast as the availing rolling stock of the Railways would admit, and this was sold by Government to genuine cultivators at R10 per 1,000lbs. at which price Government sustained some loss. This, however, was not all. Again the Charitable Fund came to the rescue, and grass was sold to the very poor cultivators, selected carefully by the Taluka Officers, at R2 per 1,000 lbs., the difference in value being paid from Charitable Fund. In some cases even this R2 was paid for the purchaser from the Charitable Fund, so that grass was brought within the reach of the very poorest owner of a plough-bullock. Professional graziers were induced to take their own and others' cattle entrusted to them to districts where there was grazing, and help in many cases from Charitable Funds again was profferred them. By these means some, at least, of the fine Kankerji bullocks,—a breed unequalled in all India probably—were preserved.

(2) In the big cities and larger villages, by getting information through unofficial channels mostly, we found out which of the higher castes were in real destitution, though too proud to come forward and claim a pittance at the hand of Government Officers, and these too we relieved with small charitable grants.

(3) Under this head come the grants of condensed milk where fresh was not available; Mellins' food for the use of the weak and tiny children in kitchens, poor-houses and villages. The greatest care was taken for the proper nourishment of these little ones, and no efforts or expenses were spared. Clothes also were distributed, as the cold weather came on, in poor-houses, and on works and elsewhere to all who had nothing but the filthiest of rags to wear. In Ahmedabad City some money was usefully spent in organising extra search and ambulance parties to pick up wandering beggars, who often fell down exhausted in the streets, rendered too stupid by hunger to go to the places where relief was awaiting them. Lately when the rains fell, and many from distant villages wished to return to their homes, they were helped on their way by small grants and railway tickets were given to them to their destinations."

KAIRA.

The following extracts are taken from the report submitted by the Collector :—

"A very great part has been taken by private charity in the work of helping the wretched victims of the famine to start life again. The grants from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to this district aggregated ₹4,61,400. This sum was distributed to a small extent by Local Committees formed for the purpose, but chiefly by Government Officers who are always in a better position than are private persons to ascertain the wants of the cultivating classes to whom the greater part of the money was given for the purpose of purchasing seed and for maintenance during the cultivating season. The local Committees arranged for the distribution of the clothing and also for the payment of monthly subsistence allowances to high-caste women and children, whose pride forbade them to accept relief from Government. The number of such high-caste women and children was very considerable, and the help afforded them was invaluable, as it is unlikely that they would have accepted assistance in any other form. The provision of clothing for the poor and needy is one of the most important objects of the Charitable Relief Fund, and many thousands of persons have received clothes which they could not otherwise have obtained, thus, in many cases, saving them from illness, if not death, brought on by exposure."

CAMBAY.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Collector and Political Agent :—

"The total amount received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund is ₹15,000. This sum was converted into local currency and realised ₹19,475. Out of this ₹17,177 was distributed among 4,979 poor agriculturists in amounts varying between Re. 1 to ₹10 for the purchase of seed, and the balance ₹2,298 was handed over to the Cambay Famine Relief Committee for the maintenance of the Cambay Orphanage, which supports seventy orphans. A large number of people have thus got the benefit of the grant.

Gratuitous relief was given to the old and the infirm in their own villages.

The Durbar purchased about one thousand bullocks and gave them to the cultivators as *Taccavi* to enable them to plough their land. The money received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee was distributed among these people for the purchase of seeds and food grains in the last monsoon. This was a great help to the poor people.

The poor-house at Cambay has been closed, but homeless orphans have been kept at Cambay. They are properly fed and clothed. The Durbar intends to maintain this orphanage as long as necessary.

The undersigned cannot close this report without tendering the best thanks of the Cambay Durbar to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee for their liberal grant for the poor people of this State."

MAHI-KANTHA.

The following extracts are taken from the Political Agent's Report :—

"In August the much wished-for rain came, and although late it was copious. The problem then to be faced was how to set the people on their legs again: how to enable them to till and sow their lands without money, credit or cattle, and how to enable them to live till the harvest should be ripe. All this and more I was enabled to accomplish over a considerable area through the means of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. I do not mean to imply that the sums placed at my disposal had been held over till the famine was a thing of the past, far from it; throughout the acute stage I was enabled to save life and clothe the naked solely by assistance I was enabled to afford from the Famine Fund. Relief works and poor-houses served the multitude, but there still remained a large residuum who were unable to avail themselves of such sources of relief, or for sundry, but to them very cogent, reasons, would prefer death to the degradation. These were beneficiaries of the Famine Fund and consisted largely of respectable families of Rajputs and others, the female sex preponderating.

Mahi-kantha received altogether from the Famine Fund ₹1,73,000, and locally in Sadra principally this was supplemented by subscriptions to the extent of ₹4,161, there were also miscellaneous receipts amounting to ₹172-12-4, giving a total of ₹1,77,335-12-4.

The expenditure under the various heads has been as follows :—

Object 1—*Number of recipients 18,975* :—

	₹	a.	p.
Clothing	5,033	11	2
Milk for sick and children	3,938	1	0
Poor-house at Dabhoda	1,250	0	0
Poor-house at Sadra	1,576	1	1
Miscellaneous	222	6	2
	₹12,020	13	5

Object II.—*Orphans.*

The expenditure on this has been insignificant, such as it is it will be met when vouchers are received. The orphans have been fed in the poor-houses and looked after by foster mothers, they have now been sent from all the Thana poor-houses to Orphanages, and it is hoped that the Native States will follow the same procedure.

Object III.—*Number relieved* 211.

Helping respectable poor people, ₹541-13-4.

Object IV.—*Number relieved* 10,528.

	₹	a.	p.
Purchase of agricultural bullocks	61,100	0	0
Purchase of cows	5,000	0	0
Fodder	20,816	3	3
Gowar (grain) for cattle	6,509	0	0
Sowing seed and food given to destitute cultivators	25,008	0	0
Ploughs (500) and miscellaneous expenditure	1,143	14	1
	₹1,19,577	1	4

From the above it will be seen that from the Fund we have clothed 18,975 persons, relieved 211 of those too respectable to attend poor-houses, given grain for sowing and for sustenance while cultivating to 10,528 persons and brought into the Province 1,396 plough-bullocks and 380 breeding cows at a cost of ₹1,37,148-0-1, leaving an available balance of ₹45,185-12-3. Of this balance I have promised to the State of Idar, under certain conditions, for the purchase of bullocks, ₹6,000; to the State of Pol, should there be water in the wells for the purchase of sowing seed, ₹1,000, and to the State of Malpur on the same conditions and for the same purpose, ₹2,000. The entire balance will be utilized in replenishing the diminished agricultural stock. I hope to be able to put 1,000 selected cows altogether into the Province; these are distributed in small batches after being branded to Rabaris who have lost their entire herds. The cows and the future progeny (also branded) will remain the property of the Rabaris subject to the condition that they cannot be sold, alienated or exchanged without permission, and under no circumstance out of the Province. They and their owners are all registered, and it is hoped that in time the losses of the famine will be made up. I also hope to increase the number of imported agricultural bullocks to 2,000, and so provide for immediate wants to some extent, but the crying need is for agricultural stock and every rupee I can get for the purpose will be money well spent.

Under Object IV, it will be seen that over ₹27,000 was spent on grain and fodder for cattle; this was due to the abnormally high price of both, the former running to ₹30 per 1,000 lbs. before the rain fell in August. It was absolutely necessary to feed the bullocks, as the loanees had no means of doing so while the fields were under cultivation.

The system adopted was to lend a pair to an owner of land for eight days at a time and then to hand them on to another, in this way a larger number had the use of the cattle and more persons were enabled to cultivate a portion of their land.

Five hundred Meston ploughs were purchased and distributed to those who in their last extremity had sold their own and in some instances, I redeemed mortgaged agricultural implements."

THANA.

The following is the extract from the Collector's report:—

"Orphans were maintained for some time at the expense of the Famine Relief Fund; but latterly at State expense. The maximum number so maintained was 114 towards the end of November 1900. Some have now been handed over to relatives and some to orphanages. There will, however, be about 40, mostly under 7, to be maintained after the famine is over at the expense of the Famine Relief Fund.

Ordinary gratuitous relief, which should have been a State charge, has, by mistake been given at the expense of the Famine Relief Fund in Murbad Taluka, since August last, at a cost of about ₹686.

A sum of ₹900 has been recently surrendered for use in worse affected districts.

Further information as to how the money allotted from the Fund has been spent up to December 31st 1900, has been called for from the subordinate officers entrusted with the distribution of the money and will be compiled, for the information of the Central Committee, next month."

CUTCH.

The following is the extract of the report submitted by the Political Agent:—

"About the close of the official year the Bombay Relief Fund Committee offered ₹2,000 to be used in affording relief to the poor famine-stricken people in Cutch. This was thankfully accepted and utilized in giving suitable clothes to the poor at the relief works. The Committee were subsequently good enough to send further sums of ₹10,000 and ₹5,000; of these ₹5,050 were expended in providing comforts to the aged and infirm

in the shape of clothing, etc.; R1,850 in providing for the maintenance of orphans; R4,050 in relieving *Purda-nashin* women and persons in distressed circumstances, who, by social or caste conditions, are debarred from applying for State relief and from submitting to the ordinary tests of distress; and R5,550 in helping to re-establish impoverished agriculturists and others who have lost substantially the whole of their capital in the period of distress, and thereby giving them a fresh start in life."

KATHIAWAR.

The following extracts are taken from the Special Famine Officer's report:—

"It is hardly possible to over-estimate the good done by the Charitable Fund. The total amount received from the Bombay Committee up to date is R5,50,000 for the whole Province, and it is possible that some further small allotment may be made. Besides this, a sum amounting to R3,938 has been received privately and spent chiefly on clothes. The chief items of expenditure, with quite approximate amounts spent under each head, are as follows:—

	R
(1) Importation of bullocks and their keep	4,15,000
(2) Purchase of cows	8,000
(3) Supply of cheap grass to cultivators	51,000
(4) Gifts of clothes and blankets	94,000
(5) Provision of extra comforts for the poor	6,000
(6) Allotted to States for the repairing of dismantled houses	46,000

(1) Bullocks to the number of over 9,000 were imported from Central India and distributed from Wadhwan. They have been a success; but the unfortunate delay in the advent of rains put us to great expense for their keep in the month of July when the price of grass was very high. These bullocks were distributed to the cultivators on relief works and elsewhere who could neither hope to get them themselves nor expect to be supplied by their Talukdars. The distribution was mainly among the petty impoverished estates of Jhalwad, especially those of the Chotila Thana. As the income of all Talukdars, from the 1st class chiefs to the pettiest non-jurisdictional Talukdars, is derived mainly from the land, it is to their interest to provide, as far as they can, the means of cultivation (bullocks) for their cultivators. We have, therefore, been careful to avoid giving bullocks to cultivators of those Talukdars who had the means to buy the bullocks themselves. The bullocks have not been given by free gift. The cultivators have been debited with a fixed low price (R25). By an arrangement with the Local Fund R1,30,000 are being paid up to the Charitable Fund. The balance due will be paid by the cultivators in time to the credit of a fund vested in Trustees. But the immediate receipt of the R1,30,000 has enabled the Charitable Fund to extend its operations. The R1,30,000, which is being paid by the Government Loan to the Charitable Fund, will be recovered by the former from the Talukdars and their cultivators.

(2) A few cows have been purchased now and more will be brought as the money to be vested in the Trustees abovementioned comes in. They will be distributed among the ruined graziers of the district known as the Panchal (Chotila, Vankaner, Jasdan, etc.)

(3) A certain amount of grass was bought last June and July and distributed to cultivators at a nominal price.

(4) About 1,100 blankets have been bought and distributed, and a large amount has been spent on clothes. It is true that the recipients of clothes and blankets very commonly endeavour to sell them for a few annas. We have tried to meet this in the case of clothes by always burning the old clothes when new ones are given, by stamping every thing issued, and endeavouring to prevent shopkeepers from buying articles stamped. It is thought that these measures have been at least partially successful, but in any case the urgent need of proper and decent clothing was so apparent that we had to attempt to meet it and took the best measures we could to prevent abuse of the charity. We have got the materials for the clothes almost invariably made in Kathiawar.

(5) This head chiefly means Swiss milk in poor-houses and relief works for children and the sick and weak. About 17,500 tins of milk have been used.

(6) During the early stage of the famine numbers of the Koli labouring population dismantled their houses removing the roof, doors, etc., for sale as fuel. The restoration of such dismantled houses appeared to be impossible for a long time without outside help and appeared also to be an object singularly free from most of the objections which apply to other objects. It provides a little work, it benefits the poorest class and does not benefit any one else, and the shelter it provides can hardly be sold. It was decided to spend about a lac or as much up to that sum as could be spared. So far R46,125 have been allotted to various States."

Kolhapur (Jath).

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Administrator of Jath through the Political Agent, Kolhapur.

"No attempt appears to have been made to raise any private Relief Fund in the State nor any steps taken previous to March 1900 to obtain grants from the Central Committee

of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, in order to meet cases not adequately covered by the State Relief operations. It was when Mr. A. W. T. Jackson, Political Agent, visited this State in March last that his attention was attracted by the sad appearance of Relief Works and inmates in the poor-houses; he thought that the State must be assisted and was accordingly pleased to place at the disposal of the Administrator a grant of R2,000 out of the Relief Fund, for giving relief in the manner indicated in the Central Committee's Circular, dated 26th February 1900. This amount was received in May last. Subsequently it was found that the amount was too small to meet all the requirements. A further representation was made in July last, requesting the Political Agent to obtain an additional grant from the Central Committee and a further grant of R5,000 was secured. A local Committee consisting of official and respected non-official gentlemen in the State was appointed in accordance with the instructions of the Central Committee for the proper administration of the Relief and under its supervision the several relief Officers were entrusted with the duty of distributing clothes to those who were found in need of clothing, and extra comforts to the sick and aged in the poor-houses, and dole and clothing and food to the respectable persons who could not leave their houses. When the *rabi* season approached, it was considered necessary to apply for an additional grant from the Fund to enable the Local Committee to help the poorer cultivators by way of small grants for the purchase of seed and sowing. The Political Agent was good enough to support the application of the Local Committee and obtained a further grant of R2,000 from the Central Committee. Thus a sum of R9,000 was received from the Central Committee for giving relief in various forms not covered by the ordinary relief operations. Besides this the Political Agent had placed at the disposal of the Committee a sum of R150 out of the donation received from a Lady in England and it was decided, in accordance with the wishes of the Lady, to spend this amount in providing clothing to the distressed women and children belonging to respectable families who could not under any circumstances join the Relief Works. The amount has been spent and will be separately accounted for. Out of the allotment of R9,000, the expenditure up to 31st October 1900 is as follows:—

Nature of Relief.	Number of persons relieved.	Expenditure.
		R a. p.
1. Clothing	4,208	3,832 15 3
2. Extra food and medical comforts to the inmates in the poor-houses and hospitals	44	43 1 0
3. Food and clothing to respectable persons	78	114 2 6
4. Small grant for the purchase of seed and sowing	3	17 0 0
TOTAL .	4,333	4,009 2 9

There was thus a balance of R4,990-13-3 at the disposal of the Local Committee on 1st November 1900. Unfortunately there has not been sufficient rainfall for *rabi* sowings and hence a large balance remained on hand. This sum will now be carefullyutilized hereafter. The present aspect is most dismal, and it does not seem improbable that the State shall have to pass through a most critical period. It is feared that the balance will not suffice during the long period and it is hoped that the Central Committee would be pleased to extend their help to the suffering poulation of this State by a further grant, especially when the next sowing season approaches for making grants for the puchase of seeds and the bullocks. Unless the cultivators will be liberally assisted at that time the cultivation would surely suffer. A timely application will be made for the additional grant further on. It need scarcely be mentioned that the suffering population of the little State feel heartily grateful for the relief given them by the aid of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund."

KOLHAPUR (JAMKHANDI).

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Administrator through the Political Agent:—

"On the suggestion of Mr. Jackson, Acting Political Agent, who had visited the Relief Works and observed the ill-clad workmen, the Bombay Presidency Famine Fund Committee was appealed to, and it generously responded to our call by remitting R500. The amount was spent in buying clothes, such as *pairans*, bodice-cloth, *lugadies*, *dhotees* and blankets for distribution. The following table will show the manner in which the

clothes were distributed and the number of persons relieved with the aid of the Famine Fund:—

Kind of cloth.	No. of recipients.	Total value.
		₹ a. p.
Pairans	1,439	280 9 11
Bodice-cloth	322	30 3 0
Lugadies	93	87 4 0
Dhotees	2	1 1 10
Blankets	3	2 13 0
TOTAL	1,859	401 15 9

I take this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the State and the destitute people to the Bombay Presidency Famine Fund Committee for the donation they were pleased to send to relieve the poor from distress of clothes."

MIRAJ.

The following is an extract taken from the report submitted by the Physician in charge of the Presbyterian Mission Hospital at Miraj, S. M. C. :—

"With reference to the sum of ₹1,000* received from the Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund Committee it was used in supplying grain free to 400 people for two months. Most of these people wandered into Miraj from outside villages and the majority were women with children whose friends had forsaken them, or who were unable to help them, large number being too old or too ill to work. The relief given was discriminate and in no way overlapped the work done by the State. I am sure too many lives were saved by the relief thus administered."

RATNAGIRI.

The following extracts are taken from the Collector's report :—

"In September 1900 the Bombay Committee at my request was good enough to make a grant of ₹3,000 for gratuitous relief, for which I am very thankful. Up to the end of October last about ₹450 have been spent chiefly in supporting the blind, maimed, infirm and orphans. A cash dole up to (8) eight annas a month is given. About 900 persons are being helped in this way.

The prices of food stuffs, though they are easier, are yet high as compared to normal rates. This year crops of the poorer grains are again short owing to the early stoppage of rains, and it is feared that a good deal of distress will prevail this season also."

BROACH.

The Honorary Secretary of the Broach District Committee writes as follows :—

The Broach district has an area of 1,463 square miles and a population of 341,490.

The soil is for the most part of the kind known as "rich black cotton," and its fruitfulness, developed yearly by an unfailing monsoon, has created a tradition of prosperity, which has rarely been disturbed by a lean season, and a standard of comfort superior to that met with in most other parts of India. The soil is so retentive of moisture, and so fertile, that, without intensive cultivation, and with a comparatively small expenditure of labour, it yields large outturns of food crops, which provide the necessaries of life, and of cotton, which, by establishing external trade, supply its luxuries.

It would be a natural conclusion that a people so favoured by fortune would view with indifference one year's interruption in their sequence of rich harvests, and would be easily enabled by their savings to bridge the interval between monsoons.

There is, however, a darker side to the picture. The cultivator, thriftless in India under all conditions, in Broach began to mortgage his birthright which is the land, for means to continue a life of reckless extravagance, which he is said to have commenced during the El Dorado period of the American War.

Led on by the fatal facility with which loans could be effected, and failing to realise that by living on his capital, he was surrendering a priceless inheritance, the tenant soon fell into the condition of a mere serf upon the land. Various economic causes, such as over rigidity of assessment, fluctuations in the cotton market, flow of capital towards land

* A further grant of ₹1,000 was sent in December.

investments, depreciation in the quality of the cotton seed, etc., may have assisted in effecting this result, but without doubt it has been largely due to the extravagance, and in some cases, indolence of the individual.

So far then from having any store of grain by means of which to weather a storm the tenant has, generally speaking, been able to do little more than keep his head above water in the seasons of regular crops. In Bahra or coast villages, of which there are about 70 in the district, and which seem to have got gradually poorer and poorer, he has not even been able to do this, but has accumulated an increasing load of arrears. When, therefore, in the year 1899 only 8·18 inches of rain fell instead of the customary average of 36·60 inches, the population already tottering towards insolvency was hurled into famine by the failure of a single crop.

The situation was aggravated by the rise in prices owing to widespread failure of the monsoon in other parts of India, and by the entire lack of fodder for the cattle

Necessary action was at once taken by Government to meet the crisis, and it is unnecessary to describe in detail here the many measures which were adopted, all having the same object, namely, that of keeping the people alive.

But though Goverment acknowledges as a most inviolable obligation the duty of preserving life by providing necessaries of subsistence for all who need them, it is unable for obvious reasons to admit its liability to supply supplementary comforts.

It is here that the Charitable Fund has stepped in and carried on the work. On March 22nd, when the famine was at its worst, the Collector of Broach having received information that sums amounting to R1,500 from the Charitable Relief Fund had been allotted to Broach, convened a meeting of the representative inhabitants of the district.

A General Committee, consisting of sixteen members, was then elected to undertake distribution of all allotments of Charitable Fund money to the district, and of the Committee Mr. Panse, the Collector, was appointed President and Mr. Vernon, the Personal Assistant, was appointed Honorary Secretary.

The list included all the Divisional Officers, the District Engineers, the District Judge, the Civil Surgeon, the Honourable Rao Bahadur Chunilal Venilal., C.I.E., the Reverend Mr. John C. Blair, the Subordinate Judge, Broach, the Head Master of the local High School, the City Police Inspector, two Parsi and two Mahomedan gentlemen of the city.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee was held on March 24th, two days later, when the machinery for distribution of funds was created, and rules were passed for general control of the business.

These rules recapitulated the objects on which the funds were to be spent, as laid down by the Central Committee, created five sub-centres of distribution (rule 4) represented by sub-committees, of which lists are given in Appendix C, and finally arranged for details of administration, supervision, and account.

30th March 1900.
22nd May 1900.
9th June 1900.
5th July 1900.
31st July 1900.
6th October 1900.
21st December 1900.

Seven subsequent meetings on the marginally noted dates were held for distribution of funds and discussion of problems that arose.

Whenever distribution of a new allotment had to be made before a meeting could be convened, the Collector issued the cheques, on his own responsibility, to the disbursing centres, to save delay.

The funds were banked with the Broach Branch of the Bombay Bank, and all receipts, except R850 specially subscribed as a donation to the Jambusar and Ankleshwar Poor-houses by the local Mahajans, were in the first instance passed in the Executive Committee's account.

The total receipts were as follows :—

	R a p
Bombay Committee	2,75,750
Jehangirjee B. Petit of Bombay	1,200
His Excellency Lord Northcote	500
The Manager, Akhbare Sodagar Press, Bombay	14-12
	2,77,464-12

Cheques were issued by the Collector and the duty of keeping the accounts of the funds was entrusted from the beginning to the Honorary Secretary, at first Mr. Vernon, and afterwards Mr. Holland.

The work of distribution was carried out not only by the members of the Committee and Sub-committees, but also by Government Takavi Disbursing Officers, by Public Works Department Officials, Special Civil Officers, and Hospital Assistants on relief works, and by prominent native gentlemen who volunteered to help in the work.

Each Officer submitted weekly accounts in prescribed forms to the Honorary Secretary. The subordinate staff of these officers, to whom was necessarily entrusted much of the preliminary investigation, also did excellent work.

The work of distribution has been particularly arduous, involving as it did much out-door labour and discomfort, first from heat, then from rain, and finally from fever. The merits of the clamorous had to be enquired into, the needs of those who hid their suffering in silence had to be brought to light, and constant precaution had to be exercised to prevent the diversion of the gifts to unauthorised purposes.

The work is not yet entirely concluded, and it has consequently not been possible to finally close the accounts before submitting this report.

Object No. I.

Under Object No. I the total allotment was R15,702-10-1, of which the greater portion, amounting to R10,956-14-9, was spent on gifts of clothing or blankets.

In distribution of these the Sub-Judge, Ankleshwar, Mr Upasni, the Mamlatdar of Ankleshwar, Mr. Motilal, the Mamlatdar of Broach, Mr. Dalal, the Mamlatdar of Amod, Mr. Motilal, the Mamlatdar of Jambusar, Mr. Gopalji, the Mahalkari of Hansot, Mr. Basla, the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Desai, have been most zealous, and the Collector has specially interested himself to ensure provision of clothes and blankets of a sound quality, and with that object has procured large consignments from Poona, Bijapur, Kalyan and Khirkee.

Besides the amounts which appear as having been disbursed by each officer, all these officers and other disbursing officers, whose names are not given, shared in the work of distributing an immense number of blankets and clothes purchased by the Collector at a cost of R5,383, whereby about 10,766 people were benefited. They have been scattered broadcast on relief works, in poor-houses and in villages, and have doubtless largely helped to mitigate the severity of the fever epidemic.

Altogether about 24,267 people benefited under this head, and it can truly be said that no part of the money subscribed was better spent.

All who assisted in the distribution will testify that the task was by no means an unpleasant one, as the recipients showed themselves singularly grateful for such gifts, whereas in the case of distribution of money the reverse was often the case.

A large nnmber of people, namely, 15,019, also benefited under the second head, namely, by receipt of extra food and comforts in poor-houses, etc.

The cost was however only R2,627-9-9.

Of this money the Civil Surgeon distributed R476 5-10 among 830 persons in the Central Poor-house, Broach. The Private Poor-house, Broach, received R1,100, by which only 583 people were benefited. But probably in the latter case the money was considered as a contribution towards the general up-keep of the establishment, which otherwise depended on Municipal and private aid.

The Sub-Judge, Jambusa, says he relieved 11,083 persons with R175. But it is conjectured that there is an error in his calculations.

Expenditure under this head was the means of saving life in many cases of sickness and convalescence when provision of additional comforts turned the scale, and of reviving an interest in life in those whom starvation had brought to despair.

The sum of R201 was spent on Mellin's Food and Swiss Milk.

These two articles played a large part in the campaign against disease and weakness, and where especially useful in the poor-houses and work kitchens, where the chubby faces of children testified to their efficacy.

But supplies when needed were mainly drawn from the Commissioner direct, and their cost, though borne by the Charitable Fund, was debited in the Commissioner's accounts, and hence finds no place here.

Under the third head, namely, addition to Government dole in gratuitous relief, only R171 were spent, and the reason for this low figure is that the same field of action is really covered by the fourth head "Relief of the destitute poor."

Under this head 8,040 persons were relieved at a cost of R1,945-0-4.

The Mamlatdar of Broach with R621, the Mamlatdar of Wagra with R496, and the Mahalkari of Hansot with R401—all did good work. Mothers of sickly infants, aged and infirm poor, orphans in villages and destitute wayfarers were the principal recipients of this relief.

The grand total of cost of relief under Object I is R15,702-10-1, and the approximate total of persons relieved 47,601.

Object No. II.

Object II finds a very small place in the accounts, a total of R78-15-11 only being spent by the four Mamlatdars on miscellaneous assistance to orphans.

Further expenditure was unnecessary owing to the fact that the Irish Presbyterian Mission at Broach had exerted itself nobly on behalf of the orphans, accepting charge of all whose relations did not claim them. The Mission when taking charge of a child undertakes to restore it if claimed by any responsible relative, and otherwise, to provide for its up-bringing and start it in life. There are at present 95 healthy and happy children in the Broach Mission compound, who should have every prospect of becoming useful members of society.

Object No. III.

Under Object III is shown a total expenditure of ₹12,071-12-0, by means of which about 10,000 people were relieved.

The assistance given under this head was intended to reach those people who, maintaining themselves in ordinary times in impoverished respectability, when confronted with starvation, preferred rather to suffer the pangs of hunger than the degradation of seeking public charity.

With the contraction of private resources, the demand for the minor luxuries of life, such as clothes, ornaments, embroidery, metal pots, etc., fell off, and in consequence the petty traders who supplied them were rapidly ruined. These formed a large proportion of the total relieved under this head.

There were many others who, having lived in comfort for a series of years on income derived from loan and mortgages or on the Bounty of wealthy relations, had failed to make any provision against a lean year, and who, on the withdrawal of the accustomed support, literally could not dig and were ashamed to beg.

It can easily be imagined what a delicate and interminable task it was to seek out, and assist people of these classes when pride of position and prejudices of caste conspired with famine to reduce them to misery, and to conceal their sufferings.

The problem was met in Broach City by the appointment of separate Hindu and Mahomedan Committees, whose duty it was to make house to house investigation and to induce acceptance of relief in deserving cases.

Messrs. Ali Akbar, Hodiwala, Adarji, Kamruddin and Pirsaheb did excellent work among poor Mahomedans, relieving 2,036 families at a cost of ₹4,500, and among Hindus the Honourable Rao Bahadur Chunilal Venilal, C.I.E., Messrs. Hiralal Chunilal, Government Pleader, Kamlashanker P. Trivedi, Head Master of the High School, Hodiwala and Adarji similarly gave assistance to 621 families at a cost of about ₹1,260.

The Collector, in addition to his other heavy duties, personally disbursed a sum of ₹150 among poor Hindus.

The Sub-Judge, Ankleshwar, and all the Mamlatdars continued the work on the same lines in the secondary towns, and the villages of the district.

The success of the work done under this head was largely due to the personal exertions of the Huzur Deputy Collector Mr. Hodiwala, whose zeal and devotion were recognised by the District Committee in a special vote of thanks passed unanimously at a meeting on October 6th.

A sum of about ₹2,321 was spent on gifts of clothing and blankets to about 3,129 people and this brings up, the total expenditure under Object III to ₹12,091-12-0, by which about 10,000 people benefited.

Object No. IV.

Under Object IV the large amount of ₹1,86,666-7-11 has been disbursed since the end of May.

The prospect of the monsoon breaking in June rendered necessary an entire change in the scheme of relief, and an enormous addition to the expenditure.

Besides providing people with the means of present subsistence it became imperative to place within their reach the means of recommencing the operations on which their future would depend.

It is not difficult, even for those who have had no connection with famine work, to imagine the necessity for this, and the enormous expense entailed.

The cultivator, emerging from the struggle with starvation, found that his victory was dearly purchased at the sacrifice possibly of health and strength and certainly of cattle and seed grain.

The whole machinery of cultivation was rusted, disorganised, and broken; and the greatest exertion was needed to forge anew the shattered parts and reconstruct the whole so that it might be in working order before the brief sowing time slipped away.

Cattle had to be imported, fodder supplied and seed grains purchased for the ryot, while at the same time the watchful care, which had maintained him on the relief work, had to be continued to him in the village.

The most difficult part of the work was the supply of cattle.

It was obviously impossible to purchase any in the District or in any part of the country which had suffered from famine. The Collector, therefore, inaugurated a system of importation of cattle from Sihore, which speedily developed and became admirably successful.

The price of the bullocks was at first ₹40 per head for sound bullocks and 25 per cent. less for inferior ones. But as competition increased and merchants perceived the facility offered them for trade, large numbers of bullocks were bought spontaneously and sold for ₹25 to 30 per head. All were of course subject to inspection by the Collector, who, by his initiative in the matter and by the deep interest he took in its development, made this part of Charitable Fund work peculiarly his own.

In all 2,633 bullocks were purchased at a cost of ₹77,463-7-7, and as fast as they arrived in Broach they were poured into the district to take up the delayed work of ploughing.

The Collector also formulated a plan by which certain bullocks in each village were placed in the charge of trustees for the purpose of being lent to needy cultivators, who were possessed of small holdings only, and these were afterwards handed over permanently to poor people free of charge.

It is impossible of course to estimate the actual area sown with the help of these communal bullocks, but it must have been very large, and it was undoubtedly just the area which would otherwise have remained unsown.

Besides this, large sums were distributed, as Appendix I shows, for maintenance and purchase of seed grain. The largest amount R42,758 was spent in Wagra, the worst Taluka, and Jambusar came next with R32,192.

It may roughly be said that about 28,370 people were benefited directly, and more will benefit indirectly by the expenditure, earning wages which would otherwise never have been offered and enjoying produce which would otherwise never have been sown.

No mention has been made in this report of the Cheap Fodder Scheme by which large quantities of fodder were imported and sold at cheap rates to poor cultivators. The scheme was worked mainly by means of Charitable Fund money, but as all expenses were paid from the Commissioner's Central Fund and from the District Local Board Funds, the District Charitable Fund accounts are not concerned with it.

A full account of the system and its admirable results will doubtless be given by the Commissioner.

Cheap grass was sold by the District Deputy Collector at R2 per 1,000 lbs. in Wagra Taluka to 50 people and in Hansot to 55 persons, who purchased in all 100,000 lbs.

The Mamlatdar of Ankleshwar sold grass to 66 people and the Mahalkari of Hansot to 1,049 people. In Broach Taluka 506 people benefited, in Amod 1,200, and in Jambusar about 94 persons.

In all about 3,080 persons in this district took advantage of the scheme, and nearly 205,000 lbs of grass were sold to them.

Another item which, as previously stated, does not enter into the funds accounts is a sum of R850 collected locally and expended by the Sub-Judge of Jambusar and Ankleswar for the benefit of inmates of poor-houses at these places.

Excluding these uncredited accounts the total receipts, as previously stated, have been R2,77,464-12-0, and the approximate total of people relieved is 86,000.

Other amounts not credited in the General Accounts were a local collection for a cheap grain shop in Broach, a local collection for a fund called the Broach Ladies' Association Fund, and allotments received from Mrs. Lely's Fund.

The first Fund was started by Mr. Cadell, formerly Collector of Broach; the second was worked by a committee of Ladies under the President Mrs. Panse, wife of the present Collector of Broach.

The admirable work done by these funds will be described elsewhere.

No accurate particulars are at present available with reference to them.

The Great Famine is over. The tide of life has begun to flow once more in its ancient channels.

The harvest which overspreads the fields testifies to the eternal promise of new life.

But though the storm is past, the wreckage and the troubled sea remain. The pinch of want is still felt in less fortunate villages where the new crop has only partially succeeded. In others, decimated families, uncultivated fields, and ruined trade remain to mark the devastation. Long after the bare earthworks which scar the country side, are toned down by nature's hand, and the sites of the crowded burial grounds beside them are forgotten, the deeper wounds in the social life will remain unhealed.

But there will also remain an undying memory of the generous help given in the name of charity to the famine-stricken.

The earnest interest shown by subscribers in many countries, and the splendid contribution, to the Funds have strengthened and consolidated the bond which unites West with East. But more than this, the union of nations in such a fellowship of sympathy vindicates more strikingly than anything in history, the theory of the progressive moralization of humanity.

No. 102-C. F., Broach, the 25th April, 1901.

From—G. D. PANSE, Esq., C.S., Collector and President, Indian Charitable Relief Fund Committee, Broach,

To—N. S. GLANZEBROOK, Esq., Honorary Working Secretary, Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund, Bombay.

With reference to your letter, dated 1st November 1900, I have the honour to report on the administration of the Charitable Relief Fund in this district as follows:—

The district is bounded on the north by the Mahi river which separates it from the State of Cambay and the district of Kaira. On the east and south-east by the Baroda and Rajpipla territories; to the south it is divided from the Surat district by the river Kim and on the west of it lies the gulf of Cambay.

The area of the district is 1,463 square miles, and it is divided into five Talukas and a Petamahal with a total population of 341,490 as shown in the margin according to the census of 1891 :—

Taluka.	Area in Sq. miles.	Populations.
Jambusar	383	82,396
Amod	176	38,546
Wagra	308	36,939
Broach	303	72,738
Ankleshwar and Hansot	293	70,703
Broach City	...	40,168
	1,463	341,490

The district is very compact although there are many native States near and around it, there is no intermixture of territories but for two villages of the Baroda State.

By the situation of the largest rivers in the district it is divided into three portions of varying size. The Northern-most division comprises the Jambusar Taluka, which is bounded on the north by the Mahi and on the south by the Dhadhar. The Central division consists of the three Talukas of Broach, Amod and Wagra, and is located between the river Dhadhar on the north and the Narbada on the south. The third division is on the south of the Narbada and consists of the Ankleswar Taluka and Hansot Mahal. On the south this division is bounded by the Kim river. Besides the Narbada and Dhadhar rivers mentioned above there are a few salt water creeks or back waters, the principal of which are the Mota, the Bhaki and the Wand.

None of the rivers are however of any irrigational use, for their course lies through steep banks of mud and earth which prevents their water being used for agricultural purposes. The rivers are besides tidal and their water at the time of the tides becomes saltish.

As observed in the Gazetteer the lands of the district form an alluvial plain fifty-four miles in length from north to south varying in breadth at different places, from 40 miles in the middle of the district to 20 in the south. This alluvial plain may be divided into three belts with regard to the character of the soil. These belts lie almost parallel to the gulf of Cambay running north and south. Nearest to the coast is a narrow strip of sandy land. This sandy plain is cultivated in places. Behind this sandy strip stretches a flat salt plain most of which lies below the level of the highest spring tides. This low lying plain is in places uncultivable and except during the monsoon is altogether barren. Even in monsoon nothing but salt grass is seen to grow there. This salt plain holds no sweet water and the grass that grows there in monsoon withers soon after its close. Behind the salt waste and beyond the reach of the sea free from tidal lagoons lies the land which becomes more and more fertile as we go further inside. Of this land the greatest portion consists of the fertile soil which is light and easily worked, and is allotted to the production mainly of cotton and wheat. But even in the best of lands there are very few trees and they consequently before the approach of monsoon appear bare, baked and seared with the heat, except a few favoured spots, *e.g.*, the north-east corner of the Jambusar Taluka, south-west corner below Hansot, the plain near Broach, etc.

The rains usually commence in June and end in October, but occasionally showers fall in the month of December and January. Until the last famine the rainfall was more or less regular. The average rainfall of the district is about 36 inches and this is usually supplemented by heavy dews from October to December, sufficient for the wants of the flat absorbing black soil of the district.

On the whole, the climate of Broach is not unhealthy, though malarial fevers prevail during the monsoon and sometimes protract till January. Cholera also makes its appearance almost every year during the months of April and May. From my experience the climate appears to be enervating.

The population of the district is 341,490 which may mainly be divided according to religion into four castes. *viz.*, Hindus, Mahomedans, Christians and Parsis. Of the total population 248,998 are Hindus, 71,263 Mahomedans, 3,273

Parsis, 128 Christians, and 17,828 others. According to the occupation the population can be divided into seven classes as follows :—

Government Service	21,327
Agriculture	208,236
Private service	9,976
Preparation and supply of material substance (artizans)	16,260
Professions	13,231
Others	16,640
	341,490

From the above it will be seen that the number of the agriculturists predominates to a large extent. A considerable portion of the money-lending class holds also lands and some portion of other classes likewise. Hence it can be said that Broach is a purely agricultural district.

The total rain fall in 1899-1900 was only 8 inches 18 cents. as against 43 inches 71 cents. in the preceding year. The monsoon set in about the middle of June. The rain fell mostly on the 16th and between the 21st and 26th of that month, and was especially heavy on the 16th and 22nd in the two southernmost Talukas. It was sufficient and timely for sowing of rice, kodra and cotton.. There was a break which was beneficial for sown crops and also for further sowing.

In July.—However the fall was very meagre only a few cents. falling as compared with 12 to 18 inches in the same month of the preceding year. Jambusar had no rain at all except very light and scattered showers. The sown crops rapidly withered for want of moisture. Fodder became scant and even the water-supply showed signs of giving out.

In August.—The rain was again very meagre amounting to only a few cents. as against 6 to 8 inches for the month. Wagra and Amod received no rain at all. Very light showers fell on 6th, 7th, 15th, 16th and on 25th. Kharif crops were by this time completely withered and agricultural operations came to a standstill. In the absence of fodder people began to feed their cattle on leaves and cactus. Prices rose rapidly and the prospect became very gloomy.

Early in September.—1·47 inches of rain fell at Jambusar and a few cents. only elsewhere as compared with the normal of 4 or 5 inches for that month, and there was no rain afterwards. By this time it became evident that the kharif crop was a total failure, except only in part of Ankleshwar, in a very few villages which received 10 inches 87 cents., was any harvest secured at all.

In October.—No rain fell at all. In a few places only irrigated crops were raised by well water, a little fodder was also procured in this way but the general condition of the cattle became worse in this month and numbers of them were sent to Thana and other forests for grazing. It became evident that the situation could only be saved by very heavy rain which it was then too late to possibly expect.

In November and *December.*—There was no rain as the month of November drew to a close; all hope of rabi was gone and the grip of famine tightened over the district and measures were concerted to deal with an agricultural calamity, the like of which no man living in the district had seen.

Though the rains began in time and with a promising downpour and enabled the cultivators to begin the agricultural operations, yet they failed almost immediately after the sowing and until the end of the season. After June there was hardly any rainfall worth mentioning and the crops began to wither.

By the end of October all hopes of both the kharif and rabi crops were lost, and the people began to feel the pinch severely and felt the struggle too hard for them to save themselves and their cattle. Agricultural labourers and others began to flock to the towns, but even there the factories and other industries could afford them no employment; consequently the number of beggars increased rapidly in the towns.

The anna valuation of different crops since 1891-92 never rose to the normal of 12 annas except wheat in 1891-1894 and cotton in 1891-1893. There was thus a succession of indifferent seasons since 1891-92, which steadily crippled the resources of the people; and they were in consequence the less prepared to meet the still more trying distress of the famine year. The

outbreak of the plague in the year 1898 also affected them seriously. The famine thus following in the wake of bad seasons and the outbreak of plague came on at a time when the people were not able to tide over the distress. The money-lenders had also suffered from the agricultural depression and the tightness of the money market for some time past and by the disorganization of trade during the plague outbreak. For several years they had not received repayments of their loans, nor interest on them, nor also any considerable portion of the rents on their lands, and they were in no position or mood to advance further loans. They refused to advance loans on the security of land which during the famine appeared to them rather an encumbrance than a security or source of profit.

The total failure of the crops affected the interests of all classes to a more or less extent. The gins were all closed and the mills ceased to work full time or to employ the usual number of labourers. The Bhils and Koli and other poorer labouring classes who usually earn their living from day to day by agriculture; and other labourers found their condition most trying when the ordinary means of employment were closed with the cessation of agricultural operations and they had no resources of their own to fall back upon. But worse than the sufferings of the people were the sufferings of the cattle. Grain was and always could be imported without much difficulty. There was little fodder in the district and it could not be brought from outside without much difficulty and expense as also delay. The Railway with their limited rolling stock found it difficult to meet the strain put on them by the unprecedentedly large imports of grains and food stuffs and found it difficult to spare waggons for import of grass from any distance. From the very beginning of the distress the people had to feed their cattle on leaves of trees and cactus. A number of cattle were sent to Thana, but unfortunately a major portion of these died there.

In measuring the pressure and effects of the famine we have to take into consideration the havoc which the outbreak of plague had caused in the preceding year. Many of the larger markets of the district were closed during the year which resulted in dislocating the trade of the district and this did not fail to act on the agriculturists, for their produce did not fetch the usual price, and they had to sell their stocks at less than ordinary prices.

The district as above remarked had to some extent to depend upon imported food grains; for the area ordinarily allotted to the raising of food crops is small. During the year under report the food produce was nil and all the grain required for consumption had to be imported.

While the district was undergoing such a terrible distress, the noble and generous people of England came forward to assist the poor, and the help rendered by them will always be remembered by the people of India. When I heard from the Commissioner, Northern District, that ₹1,500 were kept at my disposal, I at once convened a meeting of the respectable inhabitants of the city, explained to them the object of the meeting and appointed an Executive Committee to administer the Indian Charitable Fund. I was appointed the President of the Committee and my Personal Assistant the Honorary Secretary.

The names of the members of the Committee have been given by the Secretary in his report.

In all eight meetings were held, and I am glad to say that the members took deep interest in their work.

To avoid delay I had sometimes to make the distribution of the funds before a meeting could be convened. But generally the distribution was made with the approval of the Committee.

In all I received ₹3,15,910-10-5, the major portion of which came from the Indian Charitable Fund.

For the satisfactory distribution of the funds I had drafted rules for the guidance of the disbursing officers. I also appointed a Sub-Committee for each Taluka and as far as possible availed myself of help from the non-official agency also. The distribution work was, however, for the most part entrusted to responsible officers and was done under my supervision.

In order to bring the charity within easy reach of the suffering poor, I placed sufficient amounts from the funds at the disposal of all the responsible Revenue and Public Works Department, Famine, Medical and Police Officers; as also to Sub-Judges. I also took the assistance of non-officials in distributing money

amongst the respectable Hindus and Mahomedans. At the beginning I took rounds in the city of Broach in company with the members and distributed the money to the needy and deserving and thus showed them the lines on which the distribution was to be made.

The work of distribution was no doubt most responsible and involved a great deal of trouble, but I am glad to observe that the officers and others did it with great care and alacrity.

The Secretary has given full details about the distribution in his report.

Object No. I.

Under Object No. I in all R24,391-5-2 were spent. In my inspection of Works and the Talukas, I found several men, women and children without clothes, and I at once brought it to the notice of the Committee and sanctioned the required funds. In purchasing clothes care was taken to purchase them of the local industries.

In connection with this I must express my thanks to Mr. Clayton of the Whittle Mills at Broach for selling the cloth turned out from his mill at cheap rates for the poor.

Great want was felt for saris for women. The bazar rate was 14 annas per sari. I therefore purchased white cloth from the Whittle Mills and got it dyed in fast red colour by the local dyers with black border. These saris cost me about 10 annas each. Coats and jackets for children were also made by giving contracts to tailors. In short every sort of economy was observed in connection with the funds.

Blankets could not be purchased here. I had therefore to get them from outside, and got them purchased at one anna less than the bazar prices. The blankets were thick and durable and the average cost of them came to about 13 annas per piece.

These blankets along with other clothing were distributed amongst the distributing officers for distribution. In my tour I used to take a cart load of clothing with me and distributed it myself to the most needy and deserving on the several works, in poor-houses and in villages. The scene at the time of distributing was really most touching. The males had hardly anything on them beyond a mere Langot and even the women had scarcely rags enough to cover nature's shame. In leaving the place with new clothes they always blessed the noble donors at home. In all assistance under this head was given to 66,519 people, a good number indeed.

As remarked by the Secretary, Mellin's Food and Swiss Milk played a large part in the campaign and the articles were found very useful in cases of emaciation and weakness, more particularly in the poor-houses.

Object No. II.

From the beginning proper care was taken of the orphans. Instead of keeping them in our poor-houses along with other sick and emaciated sufferers, I thought it desirable to send them to the orphanages, and I accordingly sent the orphans to the various orphanages as under :—

Mr. Chhabildas Laldas	16
Mahipatram rupram	47
Reverend Mr. Blair	104
Mahajan's home for destitute children at Surat . .	1
TOTAL .	168

Orphans to Reverend Mr. Blair were given under the following conditions :—

1. To restore any children that may be given to them at the end of the famine to their lawful guardians if claimed by them.

2. Otherwise to give them a decent start in life and in the meanwhile to feed, clothe, and educate them suitably.

I was anxious to start an orphanage for the district, but for want of funds had to give up that idea.

Object No. III.

At the beginning great difficulty was experienced in distributing money under this head. The respectable poor suffered silently and though in a nearly starving condition would not come to beg for assistance or even receive it, if publicly offered. They had to be approached through their castemen and relations and the needful relief had to be sent to their home. In some cases we had to give the money at night so that no one should see it. When I once visited a Mahomedan's house, the poor fellow though he had nothing to eat, flatly declined to accept any sort of assistance; I quietly entered his house and kept a couple of rupees in the hands of his child which he took and came to my carriage shedding tears and said that he was a sayad and had nothing to eat for the last two days, and that it was below his dignity to accept such grants. But when I told him the object of the fund, he was satisfied and accepted R5 from me. In the case of Pardanashins the assistance had invariably to be sent to their houses. In connection with this distribution I had appointed two Committees, one for the Mahomedans, consisting of Messrs. Aliakbar Hodiwala, Adarji, Pusahib, and Kamrudinmiya; and the other for the Hindus, consisting of Messrs. Adarji, the Honourable R. B. Chunilal, V.C., I.E., Hiralal Chunilal, Kamla-shanker P. Trivedi and Hodiwala, and the money was distributed under my supervision.

The said Committees, as remarked by the Secretary, did excellent work.

In all R14,929-4-3 were spent in relieving 14,021 people under this head.

Object No. IV.

This was the most important object under which the greater portion of the fund was spent. In times of scarcity the agriculturists, the back bone of the community, suffer the most; and in order to assist them, I had to take particular care. Special rules were drafted by me for the guidance of the distributing officers and the village servants. The village officers were directed to prepare lists of poor agriculturists which were tested by the disbursing officers and the grants were made after regular inquiry. No stinginess in the least was shewn in distributing grants, but at the same time care was taken not to give them to undeserving persons.

As remarked above the agriculturists had lost all they had; and we had, so to speak, to give them a new start in life. We had to maintain them, give them bullocks, seed and cultivation charges. In short we had to get their lands cultivated for them. It is gratifying to observe that our efforts in this direction proved successful beyond expectation.

I am glad that the scheme introduced by me in connection with the purchase of bullocks was approved of by the Commissioner. At first I had to purchase bullocks for about R50 per head, but when I heard that they could be had at cheaper rates at Ujjain, Bhopal, etc., I sent some Broach merchants for purchases. When the merchants in these places heard about my purchase they came in numbers to me and on account of the competition I got bullocks at an average price of R30 per head at the beginning. I gave R2 per head as commission to the merchants, but when I found the competition keen, I stopped giving the commission. The merchants were importing bullocks on the strength of the passes given to them and I used to make my own selections. The Railway authorities were kind enough to reduce their charges for the import of these bullocks for the poor cultivators, and this further enabled me to secure good animals at moderate prices.

In distributing the bullocks it was the opinion of some to give them out and out. I did not approve of this, as it was not possible to meet the demand to any extent with the limited number at our disposal and therefore drafted the accompanying rules and directed the distributing officers to arrange for utilising the same bullocks for several villages as directed therein.

By this means a larger area was brought under cultivation than would have been otherwise possible and a larger number of poor agriculturists got the benefit of our bullocks. In all 2,633 bullocks at a cost of R77,463 were distributed and about 175,000 to 200,000 acres of land must have been brought under cultivation with their assistance.

All the bullocks were branded with the letters B. F. (Broach Fund), and the cultivators were bound over not to sell or otherwise dispose of them. R83,938-8-9 were given for seed. Within this amount about 1,192,028 acres of land must have been sown with cotton and other food stuffs. It was difficult for the agriculturist to get good seed and they had to pay more for it than for the ordinary grain they purchased at famine prices.

When rain commenced I issued orders to put all the agriculturists who had joined the relief works on dole and consequently no necessity was felt to incur a large expenditure under maintenance charges. In some places at the beginning only village servants were given money from the fund, but when I detected it in my tour, I at once issued a circular directing that preference should be given to *bonâ fide* agriculturists and a small amount be given to village servants if found in distress. In all R42,833-4-4 were spent in providing maintenance to 16,128 persons.

Under this head in all R2,34,031-13-10 were spent and 35,938 persons were relieved.

There was a great mortality among cows, and in order to enable the Rabaris to import good cows for breeding purposes, R1,000 were sanctioned by me, and out of the same, R500 were actually spent.

In my visit to Wagra I found there were no he-buffaloes left for breeding purposes. I therefore purchased three he-buffaloes and sent them to Wagra. There was demand also from other Talukas, but I could not secure good animals in the surrounding districts.

The above remarks will clearly shew that in all assistance was given to 116,578 at a cost of R2,74,133-8-4, at a time when it was absolutely necessary; and I am quite confident that the people will always bless the donors to the fund at home for their noble charities.

I had a balance of R39,934-10-8 out of which R30,000 have been sent to Mr. Mehta, Acting Deputy Director of Land and Agriculture, for the purchase of bullocks for the poor cultivators, and R2,000 have been distributed amongst the disbursing officers. The remaining balance of R7,934-10-8 has been kept specially to render assistance to the poor cultivators at the time of the next harvest.

The chief responsibility of course was with me. I have taken all the necessary care to see that the fund was properly utilized.

The inhabitants of the district owe a deep debt of gratitude to the people at home for the most noble and generous help, given to them at such a critical time, the memory of which they will cherish to the end of their lives.

The respectable ladies of Broach seeing the intensity of the distress called together a meeting which was attended by about 250 ladies. The object of the meeting being explained, an Association was formed for the purpose of collecting funds for the relief of the women and children in the district.

Of this Association Mrs. Panse was the Chairman and President, Mrs. K. Desai, Mrs. Chunilal and some few others were members of the Executive Committee. Mrs. Smith, Miss Kanga and Mrs. Pranshanker were the secretaries. A second meeting was held a few days after, at which rules were framed for the guidance of those to whom the funds were to be entrusted for distribution. They collected an amount of R3,500, which was mainly used in giving clothing and extra rations to women and children. Respectable but poor women and orphans got a support from the fund. I am glad that, though this was a novel kind of undertaking, the ladies managed it most successfully. The ladies of the Association oftentimes visited the poor-houses and works in person and did much of the distribution themselves. Some amount from the funds was entrusted to me, and I distributed it amongst the Sub-Divisional Officers, the Mamlatdars and Sub-Judges. This fund received a gracious donation of R200 from Her Excellency Lady Northcote. The Ladies' Association felt highly honored by the support which they received from Her Excellency which encouraged them to carry their noble work with greater zeal. The Association received hearty support from Mrs. Lily Mall. About eight to nine thousand women and children and other poor sufferers received help from this fund.

Cheap grain shops were opened at Broach, Ankleswar, Amod and Jambusar. They were opened in the early months of the famine and were continued till January 1901. At these shops grain was sold a little cheaper than the Bazar

rate, the difference between the two being no more than a seer at any place. These shops were opened by private local subscriptions and were managed by private committees. Grain dealers were induced to co-operate by sparing part of their stocks for the shops at cost or reduced price. The committees who managed the shops have not submitted reports of their operations and so it is not possible to say how many persons were benefited by the opening of these shops.

A meeting was especially convened at Broach at which the Collector presided. An appeal for subscription was made to the local public and was cheerfully responded to. The total amount subscribed was ₹24,236. Part of this amount was utilized for the cheap grain shop opened in the city and part for the Mahajan's poor-house. The management of the fund was entrusted to a local committee in which Mr. Adarji Mancherji Dalal took a leading part. The undisposed balance left in the hands of the committee stands at about ₹7,000. Mr. Adarji M. Dalal, B.A., a respectable merchant who holds a prominent position among the Parsi community of this city, deserves great cedit. He took a leading part in opening and managing the Mahajan's poor-house at Broach, in which 49,400 persons were fed at a total expense of ₹5,200.

My sincere thanks are due to the generous donors of the fund and to the members and donors of the Ladies' Association for their large-hearted sympathy towards the distressed poor whom they have so liberally helped in their hour of need.

My thanks are due to the Assistant Collectors, Executive Engineer, Assistant Engineer, the Sub-Judges and other officers and the non-official agency for their hearty co-operation in distributing the fund. The work no doubt was hard and troublesome, but they performed it with great zeal, alacrity and willingness; and did their best to help the needy and deserving sufferers.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Honourable Mr. Lely for his kind advice and instructions given to me from time to time in connection with the distribution of the fund and in sanctioning such a large amount for this district.

KARACHI DISTRICT.

The following is a report of the City Deputy Collector, Karachi:—

"In consequence of the famine raging in Cutch, Kathiawar, Rajputana and Central India and Baluchistan a number—a very large number—of destitute persons from these countries emigrated to Karachi. The arrival of these people began from September 1899, and by the end of November, it was roughly estimated that between 13,000 to 15,000 people had already flocked into Karachi to find work. It became a matter of very serious consideration to the authorities how to employ or to dispose of these men. At the request of the Collector the Kathiawar State agreed to take back their subjects, and over 700 people were sent away in October and November and about 500 people were sent to the Jamrao for work, a number of people went to the different parts of Sind to find work which they expected during the reaping season; still a very large number remained in Karachi wandering about the whole day in the town begging for work or for alms. At the end of March and early part of April, the matter reached a crisis and it was thought necessary either to send away these men or employ them on some work. The work of excavating the One Tree Tank was therefore started from the 11th April 1900, and the people were paid at the following rates:—

3 annas per diem for male adult,
2½ annas per diem for female adult, and
1½ annas per diem for children.

"Over 700 people were daily employed in the first month. At the end of the month it was found that the system of daily wages did not work well and the people did not do sufficient work for the money received; it was therefore deemed desirable to give out the work by task, paying ₹5-4-0 for 1,000 cubic feet of excavation, which rate, looking to the hard nature of the soil and the long distance to which the earth was to be carried, was considered by Mr. Brunton to be very reasonable and below the average rate paid in Karachi. The work went on very satisfactorily and the indolent and less hardworking people withdrew from the work as soon as task work was started, leaving 300 to 400 people on the work. The Kutchis and Kathiawaris were found to be more indolent than the Lasis, who no doubt worked very hard, the former preferring begging to doing work. The work was visited several times by the Collector and once by Mr. James, the Commissioner, and once by Mr. Whitworth, the Judicial Commissioner. On the 9th clothes were

distributed to the people employed on the work and their children in the Collector's presence, each person being allowed from 2½ to 4 yards of new cloth for the gift of which I am indebted to the generous hearted people of Karachi who supplied cloth for over 500 people. From the 10th to 14th August work had to be stopped owing to a heavy fall of rain; how poor the men working there must be can be judged from the fact that in order to support themselves for four days on which the work was stopped, almost all the people either sold or mortgaged the clothes given to them.

"When the work was first started some difficulty was experienced in starting a shop at the tank for sale of cheap grain, but thanks to Mr. Pitambordass Walabdas, a Native merchant, a shop was soon opened though at considerable personal loss, where grains were sold at cost price. This shop was kept by him for three months and must have cost him at least R500. Besides this act the said merchant with Seth Lowji and Seth Chellaram gave food to children and the infirm. The second and the great difficulty was of water-supply. There was no water close by, the wells in the tank being all dried up. It was therefore thought necessary to excavate the old wells and to dig a new one. The pakka built well was dug; but unfortunately there being rocky ground it cost considerable labour and the water-supply was found to be very meagre. Another well was excavated but the water turned salty, hence carts and bhisties had to be employed to get water from a long distance; as, owing to the very hot and sultry weather, the want of water was very much felt. The cost of getting water varied daily from R4-8-0 to R7 which was partly met from the Charitable Fund, partly paid by the Trustees of Seth Shewaram and partly from a contribution of R50 given for this purpose by the Local Municipality.

"The work of excavation of the tank was carried on up to the 15th instant, and cost altogether R6,870-3-2 which was met from the ear-marked subscription (R5,641-14-0) received through the Famine Fund Committee and R500 which the Collector gave from Local Funds and R1,000 from the funds at the disposal of the Commissioner in Sind.

"Over 11 lakhs cubic feet of excavation has been made in the tank besides two wells were dug.

"In all 41,026 men, women and children were employed during the time the work was in progress, and the amount paid on this account was R5,799, which gives an average of daily payment of Ro-2-3 per head.

"Thanks are due to Messrs. Kooverji Khemji, Chellaram Dhalumal and Lowji Hari for the kind assistance they rendered in supervising the work with Mr. Framroz, City Deputy Collector, also to Mr. Brunton for kind advice and placing the services of one of his best Surveyors (Mr. Abraham Reuben) at the City Deputy Collector's disposal. Mr. Abraham started the work and rendered an immense amount of assistance. Thanks are due also to Messrs. Ralli Bros. for their kindness in allowing the use of their huts at the One Tree Tank where the work-people found shelter."

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

The Collector, Mr. Steele, writes:—

"It may be mentioned to begin with that so far as this district itself is concerned, famine did not actually prevail in it and that the distress and its relief which had to be dealt with and which is treated of in this letter refer to the measures taken in connection with the refugees from the adjoining British Districts and Native States where famine in an acute form existed.

3. In the last week of August 1899 information was received that in consequence of severe drought, famine in the Thar and Parkar District, Cutch and Marwar, was apprehended. This news was soon followed by a large influx of distressed people through Talukas Badin and Tando Bago on the south. Happily the Fuleli Escape Works were then in progress and as they lay in the route of the immigrants the Acting Collector Mr. Barrow, and the Executive Engineer Mr Summers personally concerted plans on the 3rd September 1899, which had the effect of inducing refugees to settle and work there and so to obtain a living. The work appeared congenial to the refugees and 320 of them at once settled down to it. In a fortnight the numbers rose to about 800; several large parties at the same time passed into the interior of the district where they secured easier employment under the zamindars, who were not slow to taking advantage of the cheapness of labour to secure their water-courses being thoroughly cleared, or to effect other improvements on their estates. Then harvesting operations followed and immigrants were largely employed as reapers. Thus the existence of the demand for private work side by side with a large Government undertaking resulted in the attendance on the Fuleli Escape Works being at first of a fluctuating character, but when in the first week of December the requirements of private individuals ceased and the harvesting was over the numbers on the Government work rose by rapid strides, so much so that by the end of the month the total number of those engaged rose to 1,500, and in a week later it reached to 2,000, and these were given continuous employment under ordinary conditions till the works were completed in the middle of February 1900, when the labourers were transferred to the ordinary annual canal clearance works in the Badin Taluka which lasted till the end of April. Labour on the Fuleli Embankments was also provided close to Tando Bago for the immigrants, where 500 men on the average obtained daily their livelihood between the 10th September and the 10th October.

4. Other refugees also who found their way to Tando Bago, Dero Mohbat, and Hyderabad were employed on the canal clearances which were thus executed departmentally instead of by contract. From 2,000 to 3,000 persons were on an average daily employed in this way from the first week of January to the end of April 1900.

5. Work in connection with the Jam Shore Bund was started in Taluka Hyderabad with a view to giving employment to Kohistanis and Tharis. It was started on the 16th November 1899. It did not attract Kohistanis, but other classes of immigrants flocked to it. The earlier attendance was below a hundred souls, but by the end of December 1899, there were 298 distressed people working there. The number kept up continuously increasing and in the 3rd week of March 1900, the maximum reached was 1,280 working persons and 520 non-workers in receipt of relief. This work was finished by the end of April when the Chandanwah Diversion was opened giving employment to about 650 persons on an average till July.

6. The Hajipur Bund Works were started on the 18th April 1900 with 90 men. On the 21st this number rose to 260, to 769 on the 26th May, to 1,572 on the 23rd June, and to 2,379 on the 28th July. The large increase in June and July was due to the fact that on the completion of the Jam Shore Bund and the Chandanwah Diversion, all refugees who were employed on these works were sent down to the Hajipur Bund Work by Steam Boat.

7. Payment on these works was made direct to the workers, no middleman being allowed. The rates were fixed according to the nature of the work and varied from R2 to R2-12 or R3 and in special cases to R3-8 per 1,000 cubic feet of earth-work. The actual average earnings were generally as follows:—

Man—2 annas.
Woman—1½ annas.
Children—1 anna.

Payments were made twice a week and in cases of new arrivals daily.

8. On the completion of these works the Hasanali Wah in Taluka Guni was with your predecessor's permission opened as a *relief work* on the 18th July 1900. By the end of that month the Assistant Engineer in charge of the work had drafted on to the new works about 1,800 out of 2,379 persons employed on the Hajipur Bund. On discovering the Famine Code conditions on which work was offered, a large number left for the neighbouring villages, probably in the hope that their abstention from work would cause the rate of wages to be increased, but the Code rules were strictly adhered to.

9. The special Civil Officer appointed to the work classified all comers in the same way as was done on the Bhaiti Bund. Five classes were formed, the first containing working males above 16, the second, males between 13 and 16, all females about 12 and adult males not fit for the first class; the third children from 8 to 12, the fourth elderly dependants, and the fifth children under 8 years of age.

10. The work lasted up to the 22nd August, when it had to be closed, as the monsoon that set in in Cutch and the news reaching the refugees it prompted them to at once return to their country. But during the time they were engaged their attendance was as under:—

Week ending	Total Number of Refugees mustered during the week.				Rate of wages.			Expenditure of the week.
	Men.	Women.	Working children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Working children.	
					a. p.	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	₹
25th July 1900 .	114	81	48	243	2 0	1 6	1 0	25
1st August 1900 .	1,435	1,148	455	3,038	2 0	1 6	1 0	252
8th August 1900 .	1,778	1,477	455	3,710	2 0	1 6	1 0	327
15th August 1900 .	1,557	1,216	454	3,227	2 0	1 6	1 0	288
From 13th August .	...	...	...	...	1 9	1 6	1 0	...
22nd August 1900 .	467	404	169	1,040	1 9	1 3	1 0	94
						Total Expenditure .		986

The total amount sanctioned was R2,300, so the difference R1,314 was expended on petty works, establishment, skilled labour, carpenters, etc., and purchase of hutting materials. There was practically no gratuitous relief in the sense of the Code afforded on this work, and this being so the table given in paragraph 2 of Government Resolution No. 4064, dated 27th December 1900, has been omitted.

11. The requisite sanitary and medical arrangements were provided at the camps, and as there was cholera in the Guni Taluka where these works were situated all new-comers were lodged in an observation camp for the first few days. Eleven cases and 5 deaths from cholera were reported from the observation camp, while 1 case and 1 death occurred in the main camp. In other respects the health of the refugees was fairly good. This disposes of the famine refugees who flocked to the Tando Division in the south of this district. Those who settled down at Hyderabad, the head-quarters of the district, will now be dealt with.

12. The immigrants in the city of Hyderabad belonged to Marwar, Cutch and Kathiawar. They began to arrive in November 1899 in large numbers, some by way of Karachi and Tatta, but many *viâ* Badin. It is stated that there were visible signs of sufferings from the effects of famine among them, but that destitution had not reached a point rendering gratuitous relief necessary. They could always find plenty of labour in the city and this enabled them to earn enough to live upon. But as time wore on and their numbers grew and their little stock of wordly goods became exhausted they began to feel the pinch of distress. Meanwhile an outbreak of cholera occurred in the city, so it was resolved to segregate refugees and to open a relief camp at the Fuleli. This camp was in existence for 3 months and was under the charge of Messrs. Tarachand Showkiram and Bulchand Dayaram. It was maintained chiefly through the charity of the towns-people, the Sindhi merchants and others subscribing very liberally towards its up-keep. The energy with which Dewan Tarachand and his helpers worked to obtain assistance in its maintenance solved the difficulty with regard to the question of the Funds, so much so that the thousand rupees sent by the Commissioner Mr. (now Sir Henry Evan) James were sent back to him. The camp was of great service to the famine refugees, over 2,000 of whom obtained, at one time or another, help and relief in it; of this number from time to time about 1,200 persons were sent off to the Hajipur works after being allowed to stay in the camp for a short while to recruit their exhausted strength. Several hundred of them were also sent to the fields for farm work. The persons who were kept in the camp for a long time were chiefly decrepit old persons, small children, or very weak and sick persons. Assistant Surgeon Tarachand and his Assistant Mr. Darumal were both in attendance on the sick persons. Medical comforts and clothes were provided in the camp. Tools and implements were given to enable the immigrants who belonged mostly to the labouring and agricultural classes, to pursue their usual avocation, when they were discharged from the camp. All those were provided at the expense of the charitably disposed people of Hyderabad. The number of sick persons treated in the camp during the whole period of its existence was nearly 200. The total number of deaths was 5 or 6 only, and it is very gratifying to note that the camp afforded protection to the immigrants during the outbreak of cholera in the city.

13. There is nothing of special importance to record about the famine refugees who found their way in the central portion of the district comprising the Hala Sub-Division. It is stated that as there was plenty of work on the Jamrao Canal and in the Nara Valley, the influx in this Sub-Division did not assume large proportions. Those few who wandered there generally received cooked food from the Panchayats. In May 1900 the opening of a poor-house at Tando Allahyar was authorised as soon as one might be found to be necessary for the benefit of those refugees who were on their way back to their homes, and a sum of R100 was also placed at the disposal of the Assistant Collector. A sum of R12-15 only out of this grant was expended, and it soon became apparent that there was no need of a poor-house at that station at all.

14. There remains now only the Nausharo Division to be dealt with. No relief works in their strict sense were opened in the Northern Division, as famine refugees proceeding in that direction were chiefly diverted on their march by the Jamrao Works in the Northern district of that Canal system. Merwaris, Tharis, and Kachis, to the extent of 4,154, found their way, however, to the Dad Canal Works, and were engaged by Contractors on that canal at ordinary rates; and the duty of the district officials was confined principally to seeing that they were not cheated by their employers. They remained engaged in that region to the end of October 1900.

SHIKARPUR DISTRICT.

There was nothing approaching to famine in the Shikarpur district though a pinch was felt in part of the Rohri Division, and the only effect which the famine raging elsewhere produced was the influx of large numbers of famine-stricken refugees from the affected tracts neighbouring on the district, notably Jesalmir, Marwar, etc.

2. In October 1899, Mr. H. C. Mules, the then Collector, convened a public meeting of the principal residents of Sukkur and proposed that efforts should be made with a view to raising a fund from which relief might be granted both to the famine-stricken residents and immigrants of the Thar and Parkar district, and to the refugees who had entered the Shikarpur district.

A similar meeting was subsequently held at Shikarpur. The appeal was very generously responded to, and the total amount subscribed eventually reached

the large figure of ₹32,469-13-5. Out of this sum ₹12,000 were immediately remitted as a contribution to the Thar and Parkar Relief Fund, which is under the management of the Deputy Commissioner of the Thar and Parkar district, the balance being retained for utilization in the district.

3. These collections were antecedent to the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and when the Chairman of the Sind branch of that Fund addressed Mr. Mules with a view to the collection of subscriptions in the Shikarpur district, Mr. Mules rightly represented that, after the very generous response which all classes had made to his own appeal for funds, he did not feel justified in making any further call for subscriptions.

4. The fund thus raised by Mr. Mules, has, with the exception of the remittance sent to the Thar and Parkar Relief Fund, been exclusively devoted to the relief of distress in this district. It has not been supplemented by any allotment or contribution from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

5. As regards the expenditure within the districts it was mainly directed towards providing labour for the refugees at various centres. The principal centres were Sukkur, Shikarpur, and Rohri, but work was also provided at the head-quarters of the Ghotki, Mirpur and Ubauro Talukas, which being in the Rohri Division and therefore in close proximity with the affected tracts, were the principal resorts of the immigrants. At Sukkur and Rohri the breaking of stone for road metal was the work given to the immigrants, and elsewhere they were put on to road construction. The works in the towns were under the supervision of the Municipal Secretaries and elsewhere of the Mukhtiarkars. These officials made all the disbursements themselves submitting weekly reports to the Collector. Money wages were paid.

6. Uncooked food was distributed gratis to those unable to work, but this was only done at Ghotki under the orders of the Collector, who, while on tour, noticed that a number of infirm immigrants had congregated at this place. At Shikarpur 150 immigrants were supplied with blankets.

7. In March, April and May the immigrants showed a tendency to return to their homes. In order to assist them as far as possible their railway fares to Khairpur, Daharki and in a few cases to Shadipalli were paid under the supervision of small committees constituted for the purpose.

8. A considerable number of orphans or abandoned children was collected at Sukkur where they were, and are still being given instruction at the V. J. Technical School.

9. The unexpended balance of the fund amounts to nearly ₹8,000. It is proposed to devote this sum to the maintenance of the orphanage, or in the case of the latter being discontinued owing to the withdrawal of the children, to some other local charitable purpose to be decided on in due course.

THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

Mr. Lucas, the Deputy Commissioner, writes:—

"1. The rains of 1898 almost entirely failed in the four Desert Talukas, *viz.*, Chachro, Nagar, Mithi and Deplo, and in the desert portion of the Umarkot and Kipro Talukas, and the year 1898-99 was therefore one of the greatest scarcity in this tract, the area of which is approximately 10,000 square miles. Hardly any cultivation was undertaken, and the small area that was sown yielded absolutely nothing. The cattle perished by tens of thousands, and by the end of June 1899, not 30 per cent. of the original stock was left. But the desert people live more by the profits of cattle-breeding and the manufacture of ghi than by agriculture and they were able to tide over this year of abnormal scarcity without having recourse to the State for relief. And so it came about that what would have been a year of famine in any other district of the Bombay Presidency passed by without an official declaration of famine.

2. The failure of the monsoon of 1899, thus found the desert people utterly unable to withstand the gigantic famine which was its result. Not an acre of land was sown; the remaining 30 per cent. of the original flocks and herds were soon swept away; and two-thirds of the desert population—or rather more than 100,000 persons—left their homes in search of a living in the Nara Valley, and the interior of Sind. From intimate personal experience I can say that 99 per cent. of the cattle, other than camels and goats, that remained in the desert perished, as well as the majority of those which were taken away before it was too late, to imaginary pasture grounds in Baroda and Gujerat. Allowing for the cattle that have come back and will come back to the desert from foreign pasture grounds, I estimate that 96 per cent. of the total original stock has perished.

3. A local Charitable Fund, the Thar and Parkar Charitable Fund, had been opened during the "miniature famine" in the desert of 1891-92, and the balance of this at my disposal at the commencement of this famine was R5,335. In September 1899, a fresh appeal was made to the people of Sind, which resulted in the collection during the famine of subscriptions amounting to R16,832. This gave me a sum of R22,167 to expend on objects not falling within the scope of the regular Government gratuitous relief. Money from the fund was spent during September and October 1899, in helping destitute wayfarers on their journey from adjoining Native States across the desert to Sind in search of employment, and in giving charitable relief to the aged, infirm and destitute, who either could not be expected to leave their homes or who had broken down and could not continue their journey to Sind. During November 1899, I established regular poor-houses at Umarkot and at the four Desert Taluka Head-quarter towns, and though the expenses of the poor-houses were at first defrayed solely from the Thar and Parkar Charitable Fund, these institutions were conducted strictly upon the lines laid down in the Famine Code for Government Poor-houses. Until 31st December charitable relief in kind was also given from the Thar and Parkar Charitable Fund in many villages in the Desert, and purdahnishin and respectable persons were also relieved by cash payments.

After 1st January Government took over the poor-houses and village gratuitous relief in kind, and the Thar and Parkar Charitable Fund was thenceforward devoted to supplementing the poor-house doles with comforts, helping destitute wayfarers across the Desert on their way to and from Sind, relieving purdahnishin and respectable persons, and giving doles in cash to destitute persons in outlying villages and hamlets, where there were no grain dealers.

The total Government expenditure on gratuitous relief until the official close of the famine on 30th September 1900, was R25,216. During the month of July 1900, the Thar and Parkar Charitable Fund was exhausted, and from then to the close of the famine a sum of R3,200 was spent from the Indian Charitable Relief Fund from the grant made to this district in succouring wayfarers and destitute persons in remote villages.

4. A grant of R50,000 has been made to this district from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Out of this a sum of R3,200 has been spent as just described. The balance is still with me and I intend to devote it to making presents of milch cows to some of the smaller cattle-breeders who have lost everything in the famine, and have no means of starting again in life. The balance will, it is hoped, all be expended in January and February, which months I am going to devote to a comprehensive tour through the Desert. It is obviously impossible to begin distributing the charitable grant until it is known for certain who really are entirely ruined and who cannot make a fresh start without charitable assistance. Although cattle-breeding is primarily the calling of the whole of the Desert population, still almost every body has one or two fields; all or nearly all of which have been cultivated this year by means of camels. Here it should be explained that except in the Peninsula (Nagar Parkar) camels and not bullocks are invariably used for ploughing, and that about one-third of the total stock of camels in the Desert have survived, and were found to be sufficient to plough all the occupied lands. Of course a few fields were ploughed by hand and the low caste Bhils and Menghwars often plough with donkeys.

The kharif harvest has now been reaped; and the first thing that the people will do with the proceeds of the sale of their spare grain will be to purchase cows. And the Bania's purse-strings have now been unloosed and many will be able to obtain money on credit for the purchase of cattle. There will remain those who have neither made any profit out of this season's kharif, nor can obtain an advance from the money-lender, and these are the proper people to assist from the Indian Famine Charitable Fund. Of course the people are not aware that this sum is at my disposal, but my Mamlatdars have long been engaged in quietly preparing lists of those whom they consider eligible for this charitable assistance. Had I commenced distributing my Famine Fund allotment immediately that abundance of pasture was assured, not only would the deepest discontent and jealousy have been aroused, but the spontaneous replenishment of the Desert flocks and herds would have been seriously retarded; for intending purchasers of cattle would have clung to the hope that they too might share in the charitable distribution. I shall also probably help some of the poorer Bhils and Menghwar who have only just returned to their homes with presents of donkeys for next year's cultivation.

5. It has already been said that two-thirds of the entire Desert population went to the Nara Valley and the interior of Sind and obtained work there. For the remaining population small relief works were provided. The excavation of tanks costing from R500 to R1,000 was found to be the most suitable and useful kind of work. Altogether R55,708 were spent in this way between October 1899 and August 1900, when relief works were finally closed. In all 120 tanks were excavated. The largest number of persons on relief on any one day including dependants was 4,690, and the average number was 1,250. One uniform system was adopted, that of family petty piece work. Fairly liberal rates varying from 8 to 12 annas per 100 cubic feet were given in view of the unfamiliarity of the Desert people with excavation work, and payments were made strictly according to results. About 10 tanks were usually in progress at the same time in different parts of the Desert. Special relief works were provided for respectable Rajputs.

6. One of the most striking features of the famine has been the influx into the Nara Valley and Sind of famine-stricken refugees from the adjoining Native States of Jodhpur, Jesalmir, Palanpur, Radanpur and Cutch. From November 1899 until the end of June, when cholera appeared and the rains fell, it is estimated that there were nearly 100,000 of these refugees scattered over the Nara Valley. Nearly all found employment first in harvesting and afterwards in the performance of 'odd jobs,' as cultivators, day labourers and household servants, and on the very extensive canal excavation and clearance works that were in progress in this district during the year. Not until April was it found necessary to open a relief work for these immigrants, and the numbers on the work, a large protective embankment, never rose above 10,000. The work automatically closed in the second week of June on the appearance of cholera, which hastened the people's return to their homes.

7. Besides relief works and gratuitous and charitable relief, liberal advances of tacavi free of interest were made for subsistence and for the purchase of seed and cattle. Altogether during the famine a sum of ₹1,60,956 was advanced, the advances being generally small amounts ranging from ₹10 to ₹50.

No. 4033 of 1900, Famine Department, Commissioner's office, Karachi, 10th November 1900.

From—H. E. M. JAMES, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Commissioner in Sind,

To—The Honorary Secretary, Bombay Presidency Famine Relief Fund.

I have the honour to reply to the enquiries made in your letter No. 796 of 24th September last.

2. The grant of ₹55,000 received from your fund was placed in the National Bank of India to the credit of the Commissioner in Sind as follows:—

₹50,000 for Thar and Parkar.

₹5,000 for Sind generally.

3. Of the sum set apart for Thar and Parkar ₹12,000 only have been advanced up to date to the Deputy Commissioner, the remainder ₹38,000 still in the Bank is kept as a reserve for expenditure hereafter "in restoring to their original positions those who have lost their all in the struggle" (*vide* object IV of the Fund). Of the ₹12,000 already advanced, the Deputy Commissioner reports that ₹4,435-6-1 approximately have been spent, *viz.*, ₹1,435-6-1 in helping destitute wayfarers on their journey across the desert to and from Sind, which the Deputy Commissioner has also placed under object IV, and the remainder on other suitable objects. A detailed account of the money actually spent up to date is not yet available, but as soon as the Deputy Commissioner submits it, the statement asked for in your paragraph 1 will be sent.

4. As regards the balance of ₹5,000 set apart for Sind, I have the honour to state that up to the present a sum of ₹1,500 only has been advanced to the Collector of Karachi, the account of which is being kept separate from the accounts of the local subscriptions. The advance of ₹1,500 has been entirely utilised by Mr. Framroze, the Acting City Magistrate, in helping indigent people back to their homes in Cutch, Mekran and other places, and an application for a further advance is expected. A detailed account of the amounts expended in this way is being kept by the Acting City Magistrate, and he has been asked to furnish me with a copy of it, on receipt of which I shall forward it on to you without delay.

5. The accompanying copy of a letter of 6th October, together with a statement of account, received from the Honorary Secretary, Sind Branch Charitable Relief Fund, duly audited by the Huzur Deputy Collector, Karachi, will show the amount of local subscriptions and the way the money has been distributed. A printed report of the Executive Committee of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund with four spare copies, is also attached. Of the sum of ₹32,281-13-5 mentioned by Mr. Motiram Advani as collected by the Collector of Shikarpur and retained by him, the Collector reports that there is a balance of ₹7,888 remaining, and that expenditure is still being incurred in sending refugees back to their homes; but that the balance is not expected to be reduced by more than about ₹400 or ₹500. The Collector proposes to devote the unspent portion to an orphanage which has been established in connection with the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, and in which at present some forty orphans, chiefly the abandoned children of famine-stricken refugees, are being

maintained. A perpetual monthly subscription of R100 towards the Institution has been promised by a private person and the funds are under the management of a special committee composed of responsible officials and other persons of position and trust. Special donations have also been received towards the fund and an allotment of R 100 has already been made by the Collector from the local Charitable Relief Fund.

6. No fresh grant is needed in Thar and Parkar or elsewhere for the support of famine orphans, but the balance of the fund in the Shikarpur district having been raised for purely local purposes will be retained for the orphanage started there, the amount being funded and the interest utilised for orphans and for charitable purposes in a business-like way and not tied up so as not to be available in case of future misfortunes.

7. Besides the amounts received from you, a sum of R3,293-14 was placed at my disposal by the Honorary Secretary, Sind Branch Charitable Relief Fund, of which R468-14 have been set apart for use in Thar and Parkar, but are untouched up to the present. The rest of the money has been distributed as follows :—

R2,350 to the Karachi district for charitable relief to famine-stricken immigrants.

R162-15 to the Hyderabad District for relief of destitute people in the City and Taluka of Hyderabad.

R10-7-4 charitable relief dispensed by the Executive Engineer, Begari Canals, Upper Sind Frontier, leaving a balance of R301-9-8.

8. Details of the amount advanced to the Karachi district are not yet available as stated above, but will be sent later as soon as the City Magistrate's accounts have been written up and audited by the Huzur Deputy Collector, Karachi. The amounts spent by the Collector of Hyderabad and the Executive Engineer, Begari Canals, are so small as to need no detailed accounts. I may mention that I have also received a sum of R150 from the Punchayat at Sehwan as a contribution towards the Famine Relief Fund, which has also been placed in the National Bank.

AHMEDNAGAR.

Mr. Lamb, the Collector, writes :—

It may be of interest to show clearly the system of procedure. I accordingly attach copies of my circular orders :—

No. D-72	20th December 1899.
No. D-276A.	6th March 1900.
No. D-395	22nd idem.
No. D-527	30th April 1900.
No. D-768	26th May 1900.
No. 9707	18th June 1900.

It will be observed that the funds administered by the Committee were by no means the only charitable funds distributed in the district. The American Mission gave R65,000 for seed and bullocks, and largely in clothes and special relief to respectable persons and additional comforts to others, and took charge of over 1,000 orphans. The S. P. G. and R. C. (Jesuit) Missions also did much with their less ample means. The total amount at the disposal of the Committee from all sources up to 31st December 1900 was R4,14,118-11-4, the total expenditure up to that date was R2,71,701-14-9, and the balance in hand on that date was R1,42,416-12-7.

The reason for the District Committee having at the end of the year a considerable sum in hand is threefold :—

(1) the rabi rains of 1900 failed, and the sum reserved for giving seed and cattle for that crop was therefore for the most part undistributed ;

(2) no sums have been granted for the maintenance of orphans after the famine, because the end of the famine has not yet come ;

(3) a second successive year of famine being in sight in October, and being now in process of being endured, the Committee, having received no promise or hope of further grants from the Central Fund, is obliged to be most careful, not to say parsimonious and niggardly in its expenditure of the funds which it is available.

As indicative of the excessively severe stress through which the district has gone and from which it has not yet emerged, I may state concisely a few facts :

(1) The early crop gave 5 per cent. of a normal outturn and the late crop none.

(2) This was after a year of famine in 1896-97 and two moderate or poor years in 1897-98 and 1898-99.

(3) The district, which in a normal year exports grain, had to import 15 lakhs of maunds of food-grain, against only 2½ lakhs in the famine of 1896-97.

(4) Food-grain prices were from 14 to 19 lbs. per rupee against a normal of 40 lbs.

(5) Of a recorded population of 888,755, 2¾ lakhs came on Government relief.

(6) Notwithstanding the extensive Government and Charitable relief, the death rate rose from a normal of 38 per mille per annum to 62 per mille per annum.

(7) 29 per cent. of the cattle died, notwithstanding large importations of fodder sold at or below cost price, or given free or in the shape of loans.

Subscribers to the fund have earned the gratitude of many thousand—more than a hundred thousand—sufferers who have been relieved ; and their charity has—

(1) clothed the naked literally in the case of many children. It is of course usual in normal times for young children to be seen about absolutely nude ; but not for the bigger children ; and to all some clothing is a benefit for cold and for wet weather. To many hundreds of children, both big and small, clothes were given. The expression is very little of an exaggeration when applied to many adults, especially women ; I have seen them reduced to such scanty rags to cover them that they were ashamed to stand up, or I indeed to ask them to ;

(2) helped to save many infants' lives. Sucklings suffered terribly in this famine ; one of the most distressing sights was the large numbers of frightfully emaciated children at breast, the breast being dry though the mother was otherwise herself strong enough. Charitable aid, especially in the shape of Mellins' Food, some of which was given by the Company, some by private donation placed at my disposal from the highest quarter in the Presidency, some from the Fund, brought back health and strength to not a few sorely shrunken infants ;

(3) relieved the genteel poor. Members of families of caste and position who could not work nor beg and yet were starving were given aid in their own homes.

(4) aided orphans until taken charge of by benevolent* persons or restored to friends or relatives willing to take charge of them ; and

*1. American Maratha Mission .	1,319
2. S. P. G. Mission . . .	89
3. R. C. Mission, Sangamner .	44
4. R. C. Mission, Valen . .	47
5. R. C. Mission, Kendal . .	28
6. Sardar Umar Jamal . .	19
7. Mr. Chabildas Lallubhai .	7

(5) most of all, enabled many hundred of farmers, who had neither food, nor seed, nor cattle, to resume cultivating their lands as soon as the season came, and so saved large areas from lying waste and many honest small landholders from sinking at the best into more labourers and at the worst into wastrels and beggars.

Expenditure by the Fund on administration has been small, as the services of Government Officers and many private persons were given gratis. It is not possible to say that every pie expended reached the person for whom it was intended, for there were several accusations of misappropriation by intermediaries, especially headmen and accountants of villages. But in few cases were the accusations substantiated ; and except for a quite insignificant amount of leakage the money was spent on the objects for which it was intended. In achieving this good result, there was much willing and excellent work done by many private and official members of the Committees ; and it is perhaps invidious to mention some names rather than others ; nevertheless it is, I think, desirable to record the good services of Mr. Edulji Rustamji, Honorary Secretary of the District Committee ; Mr. Mohanlal, Honorary Secretary, City Committee ; Mr. Pandharinath Dadaji Nange, *vice* President, Karjat Taluka Committee ; Rao Saheb Rahurkar, Sub-Judge, Sangamner ; Mr. Keshav Bapuji ; and the Reverend Dr. Hume, American Maratha Mission.

No. 382-F. of 1900-1901, Ahmednagar, 9th February 1901.

From—EDULJI RUSTOMJI, Esq., Honorary Joint Secretary to the Ahmednagar District Famine Charitable Relief Fund,

To—R. A. LAMB, Esq., I.C.S., Collector and President, Ahmednagar District Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

I have the honour to submit the following brief report on the administration of funds raised for the relief of famine distress amongst the people of the Ahmednagar District during the Famine of 1900. The figures given below in the report relate to the period ending 31st December 1900.

2. *Public meeting.*—It being observed that the time for charitable relief from famine distress had arrived, a public meeting of the inhabitants of the district was called on 11th December 1899, at the Vishrambag High School Hall, at 4 P.M. to consider the measures necessary. The meeting was attended by the representatives of all the classes of the people, although it was not a very crowded meeting. The Collector of the district was pleased to preside. Originally

it was intended to hold the meeting for the relief of the people of the city of Ahmednagar only, but on his suggestion it was advisedly held for the relief of the entire population of the district.

3. *Working Committee.*—At the above meeting, a working committee representative of the whole district was appointed with the Collector of the district as the President and the District Judge as the Vice-President. The undersigned with Mr. Mohanlal Hiralal was appointed the joint Honorary Secretary. At first the District Judge and subsequently the Huzur Deputy Collector was appointed the Treasurer.

4. *Duties of the Committee.*—The duties of the Committee appointed as above were to raise funds by subscriptions in the district and outside it, to obtain contributions from the Provincial or Presidency Committee and to distribute funds received for relief throughout the district in accordance with the wants or requirements of each Taluka.

5. *Name of the Committee.*—For the sake of convenience, the above Committee consented to become a branch of the Bombay Presidency Committee, and styled itself the "Ahmednagar District Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee."

6. *Sub-Committees.*—In order to secure a proper and timely distribution of pecuniary and other relief throughout the district, the 11 Taluka Local Boards of the district were constituted into 11 Taluka Sub-Committees. These Sub-Committees obtained their information and figures from the village officers and the Circle Inspectors under the orders issued in this behalf by the Collector and sent in their proceedings and requisitions to the district Committee. The District Committee considered them and voted money from time to time as they in their meeting thought proper and consistent with the wants and the funds in hand.

7. *Other Agencies.*—Besides the Taluka Local Boards, assistance of several Government officers and other Missionary gentlemen moving about in the district was enlisted to relieve any urgent cases of relief from starvation or the like that came under their observation while moving about. For this purpose sufficient sums of money were placed at their disposal from the District Committee's Fund.

8. *City Relief Committee.*—For the sake of facility and even distribution of the work, a separate Sub-Committee was appointed for relieving the people of the City, the Cantonment and the town of Bhingar. This Committee had existed since the Famine of 1897, and had a balance of money amounting to ₹4,000 in hand saved from the amounts collected during the previous famine.

9. *District Committee meetings.*—The District Committee held 18 meetings up to 31st December 1900. These were held fortnightly on or about the 18th and 25th of each month, and were presided over by the President and in his absence by the Vice-President. Regular minutes and proceedings of the meetings have been kept in the undersigned's office. The resolutions of this body have been communicated to the parties and bodies concerned, and the money which was sanctioned was remitted in the shape of cheques on the Huzur Treasury, under the signatures of the President or the Vice-President. The Huzur Treasury on receipt of such cheques issued cash orders on the Taluka treasuries concerned.

10. The subjoined table gives the different heads under which the total receipts amounting to ₹4,75,963-12-1 of the District Famine Charitable Relief Fund were made up :—

	₹	a.	p.
1. Bombay Provincial Fund	4,56,000	0	0
2. City subscriptions including the camp	5,156	0	0
3. Subscriptions raised in the district by the Taluka Local Boards	3,607	12	1
4. Contributions by the late Mr. S. V. Jog	10,000	0	0
5. Amount received from His Excellency Lord Northcote, the Governor of Bombay	500	0	0
6. From General Blundell in England	250	0	0
7. „ Sir Dinshawjee Manikjee Petit, Bart., Bombay	450	0	0
	4,75,963	12	1

11. *Provincial Fund.*—The bulk of the District Committee's Fund as will be seen from the above was made up of the large sums received from the Bombay Provincial Fund or in other words from money contributed and collected outside the district, a considerable portion of which being no doubt from the charity money raised in England and Scotland, received through the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee.

12. *Local Subscriptions.*—In the city and amongst the Government Officials in the station a total of R5,156 was actually collected. In the District, the Taluka Committees collected R3,607-12-1 from respectable and well-to-do residents in the Taluka towns.

13. *Mr. S. V. Jog's contribution.*—Mr S. V. Jog, a local pleader, who had a very extensive practice in the district, just before his death and in the beginning of the Famine very generously contributed a sum of R10,000 for the relief of Famine distress in the district. He handed over Government Promissory Loan Notes of the value to the Collector for being expended on Famine Relief. Government have acknowledged this charity in suitable terms.

14. *His Excellency Lord Northcote, the Governor's contribution.*—In addition to the very liberal and extensive contributions to the general Indian Famine Relief Fund, His Excellency Lord Northcote, the Governor of Bombay, was pleased to send a special contribution of R500 to the Ahmednagar District Famine Charitable Relief Fund. Besides this sum, several other sums are said to have been received from His Excellency and also Her Excellency Lady Northcote for charitable relief to the needy through private Mission gentlemen and officials, which being outside the District Committee's Fund are not shown in the above figures. Lady Northcote's visit to the houses of really helpless relief recipients of the city, and personal inquiry about them and giving them further relief in person will be long most gratefully remembered by the poor who had such honour bestowed on them, as a really solicitous act of pious benevolence.

15. General Blundell, who is known to have always evinced a great interest in the well-being of the Ahmednagar Station, sent of his own accord a sum of R250 from England as a contribution.

16. Sir Dinshaw Manickjee Petit on hearing from the undersigned the severity of the distress in the Ahmednagar District and on being informed that a subscription list was opened sent a sum of R450 through Messrs. Cursetjee and Sons of this place.

17. *Queen's Birthday gift Fund, Bombay.*—The Committee of this fund from Bombay sent 8 bales of country blankets containing 50 pieces in each.

18. *Cawnpore Blankets.*—The Cawnpore mills sent 3 bales containing 300 superior blankets made in the mill for charitable distribution among the famine poor.

19. *Bales of English cloth and clothes.*—There were in all two bales of English clothes received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund Committee. The contents of these bales were distributed to the deserving poor through the assistance of Mrs. Haig, Mrs. Hume and Mrs. Taylor, ladies of three different Missions, and Mr. Mohanlal. One of the bales contained two quilts of an expensive kind and it was found difficult to find suitable recipients for such costly gifts amongst the famished of this place. One of them was therefore sold for R30 and the proceeds credited to the District Fund and the other of a cheaper kind is still left on hand.

20. *American help.*—Although outside the scope of this report, I do not think it would be out of place to mention here the very valuable help received by the Ahmednagar District from America both in money and grain chiefly American Maize. The help from this source may be estimated at not less than three to four lakhs of rupees. This help was dealt out to the people direct by the local American Mission and specially by Dr. Hume through their own Mission Agencies, who were given special facilities and assistance by the Taluka and village officers on circulars issued by the Collector on that account. The people of this district acknowledged this generous help from America in a public meeting assembled for the purpose on 25th September 1900, and presided over by yourself.

21. *Hospital.*—The amount of R250 placed at the disposal of the Civil Surgeon was for expenditure in connection with an unusually large number of pauper patients who flocked to the hospital during the famine and had neither

the means to supply themselves with either food or clothes. Such people were relieved from out of funds supplied on this head.

22. *Object No. IV*—It was under this object of relief that the largest amount of R2,05,741-11-1 was spent. Most of it was for seed for kharif and afterwards for the rabi crops. Owing to the almost entire failure of the late rains, several of the Talukas did not spend all the allotments made to them for the rabi crops, but returned the money or a major portion thereof. The District Committee had laid down a limit of R10 to be given to each cultivator for seeds; this they increased afterwards to R20 in cases of the expensive seeds, such as gram, wheat, rice, etc. It was further pointed out that a given area of land required larger quantities of gram and wheat than of Jwari and Bajari to sow in it, and hence the limit was raised.

23. *Bullocks' relief.*—The District Committee considered very carefully the advisability of purchasing cattle for agricultural relief and giving them either for use or as gifts to the deserving cultivators. The subject was referred to a special Sub-Committee of select members who, after a careful inquiry into the cattle markets of this and the neighbouring districts, submitted a report. On a mature and further consideration the District Committee found it was not practicable to buy bullocks at reasonable cost as the prices of animals fit for agricultural operations went up by leaps and bounds, as soon as there were the symptoms of the burst of monsoon, in all the markets; and to buy them at high prices was to compete with the general cultivators and run up the prices, which was not deemed a wise course. The Committee further thought that the money available with them would not go any great way to relieve a decent number of cultivators were they to purchase animals at very high prices. They therefore thought it best to distribute money both for seed and for hire or procuring of the cattle by the cultivators themselves as best they could. The District Committee laid down that money for seed was not to be paid until after the first fall of rain or until the monsoon was a hopeful one.

24. *Artizans and craftsmen.*—Applications from petty shop-keepers and artizans other than agriculturists were received from the city and some of the Talukas. They prayed for help to start them in life again by pecuniary help. The principal amongst them were the weavers. The District Committee had sanctioned a large sum to be spent at different places on this head, but owing to the late rains having failed, this amount was not advisedly disbursed for fear that any yarn or the materials which would be given to the artizans would be sold in the market at much lower price than their cost, and the proceeds appropriated for buying food grains or paying the Baniya for grain advanced, and would not go to start them in life again as was the object of the gift.

25. *Gawalees (cattlemen).*—The City Relief Committee applied for a grant for milch cattle to be given to distressed Gawalees, to start them again in their useful employment. The District Committee however did not support this as it feared any money or even cattle given to the "Gawalees" would be attached by the Sawkars several of whom being said to have decrees ready for execution in their possession obtained from the Civil Courts. This was said from experience of a similar relief given in the famine of 1897.

26. *Number of people relieved.*—The sum total of all these is put down at 95,531 in the statement. This figure does not include the number of persons relieved by the City Committee and the several officials and missionary gentlemen mentioned in the statement. I estimate the number for the city at not less than about 10,000 under all objects and about 5,000 to 6,000 for the number relieved by the other gentlemen. These numbers give a total of 111,531. The total outlay being R2,71,701. The average cost of relieving each person comes to R2·44.

27. *Support to Weavers' Relief.*—The District Committee took an opportunity of stretching out a helping hand to the City and other weavers' Relief Committees by laying it down that "Lugadis" and other cloth woven by the weavers relieved by the several agencies for the relief of the distressed weavers be purchased by the Taluka Committees and other officers and gentlemen from out of money sanctioned for the purpose from the District Fund, so far as the articles were of good quality and not dearer than their market value prevailing at the time of the purchase. I need not say this has especially contributed to the success of the Municipal City Relief Committee's work, for which I have submitted a separate report in details.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SIND BRANCH, INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900.

Following the example set by HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY in organizing the Famine Charitable Relief Fund, a public meeting was called by Mr. Tahilram Khemchand, C.I.E., (President of the Karachi Municipality), and the Honourable Mr. T. L. F. Beaumont, (President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce) at the "Frere Hall," on the 9th of March, which was presided over by the Commissioner in Sind, (The Honourable Mr. H. E. M. James, I.C.S., C.S.I.).

It was resolved at this meeting to raise contributions in Sind in aid of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund which had been organized by His Excellency the VICEROY, with the gracious approval of HER MAJESTY the QUEEN-EMPRESS.

The following Committee was appointed to give effect to the object of the meeting :—

President;
The Hon'ble Mr. H. E. M. James, I.C.S., C.S.I.

Chairman;
G. C. Whitworth, Esq., I.C.S.

Honorary Secretary;
Motiram S. Advani, Esq.

Treasurer;
The Agra Bank.

Members of the General Committee.

General H. S. Brownrigg.
R. Giles, Esq., C.I.E.
Tahilram Khemchand, Esq., C.I.E.
Hon'ble Mr. T. L. F. Beaumont.
A. Thöle, Esq.
W. W. Petrie, Esq.
C. Whitson, Esq.
Dan. McIver, Esq.
Hon'ble W. T. O'Brien.
M. de P. Webb, Esq.
C. Trafford, Esq.
V. K. Kingcome, Esq.
Dr. J. M. Jackson.
E. Jackson, Esq.
M. H. W. Hayward, Esq., I.C.S.
E. Van der Straaten, Esq.
Colonel W. McConaghy.
Lieut.-Colonel C. W. R. Hervey.
Lieut-Colonel J. McCloghry.
Revd. G. E. Nicolls.
H. G. Palliser, Esq.
G. Owen W. Dunn, Esq.
J. Forrest Brunton, Esq.
H. Garden, Esq.
G. Betham, Esq.
R. P. Barrow, Esq., I.C.S.
Pandit Sahijram Gangadhurdas.
Rewachand Ramrakihamal, Esq.
Percy Hide, Esq.
Asanmal T. Ojha, Esq.
Srichand Vishindas, Esq.
Dr. Haji.
Dr. Piries.
E. Raymond, Esq.
H. C. Mules, Esq.
W. H. Lucas, Esq., I.C.S.
M. D. Mackenzie, Esq.
E. H. E. Leggatt, Esq., I.C.S.
Dayaram Gidumal, Esq., I.C.S.
J. D. Framjee, Esq.
Revd. J. A. R. Brookes.
Revd. J. Redman.
Father Peters.
Hon'ble Mir Allah Baksh.
Khan Bahadur Kadirdad Khan, C.I.E.
The Pir of Rohri.
Gidumal Lekhraj, Esq.
Mukhi Ramzan.
Dossa Kallian, Esq.
P. J. Padshah, Esq.
J. H. Kothari, Esq.
Tirathdas Chandumal, Esq.
Wadhumal Udharam, Esq.
E. Nash, Esq.
Yusifali Alibhai, Esq.
R. H. J. Rustomji, Esq.
C. D. Dove-Wilson, Esq.
Nadirshah E. Dinshaw, Esq.
E. Speechly, Esq.
Allumal Trikamdas, Esq.
Durganomal Sri Krishan, Esq.
Jethanand Nebhandas, Esq.
Radha Kishan Tejbhandas, Esq.
Mandraj Goverdhan, Esq.
Gangamal Motilal, Esq.
Gunpatrai, Esq.
Rao Bahadur Seth Vishindas Nihalchand.
Ramdas Morarji, Esq.

Motiram S. Advani, Esq.
Pestonji B. Kotwal, Esq.
Framroze E. Panthakey, Esq.
Jaffer Fuddoo, Esq.
Gulam Hussein Chagla, Esq.
Harchandrai Vishindas, Esq.
Lalchand, Esq.
Parmanand, Esq.
Ali Akbar Hassanali, Esq.
Nanabhoy Chanjibhoy, Esq.
Teckchand Oodhowdas, Esq.
Professor B. J. Naik.
Professor S. C. Shahani.
Chellaram Dallumal, Esq.
Gidumal Fatehchand, Esq.
Thakurdas Fatehchand, Esq.
Vishindas Fatehchand, Esq.
Lowji Hari, Esq.
Devji Parpia, Esq.
Cooverji, Esq.
Seth Goverdhandas.
Seth Shamdas.
Devishaw Jamnadas, Esq.
Kimatrai Choithram, Esq.
Valabdas Umersi, Esq.
Khatao Makanji's representative.
Nur Mahomed Lallan, Esq.
Hashim Fuddoo, Esq.
Alu Aladino, Esq.
Seth Adamji Jiwanji.
Haji Karim Mahomed.
Moulvi Allah Baksh.
Kazi Sharafdin.
B. H. J. Rustomji, Esq.
Sorabji Dubash Esq.
K. Soparivala, Esq.
Framji Dosabhoy, Esq.
N. N. Pochaji, Esq.
Dr. S. M. Kaka.
Nusserwanji Mehta, Esq.
Byramji Edulji, Esq.
K. H. Katrak, Esq.
J. P. Lobo, Esq.
Dr. M. B. Braganza.
Dr. DeSouza.
C. F. D'Abreo, Esq.
Naraindas Motaram, Esq.
Professor M. J. M. Mirza.

At the meeting of the General Committee held at the "Denso Hall" on the 12th March, the following Executive Committee was appointed:—

Chairman;
G. C. Withworth, Esq., I.C.S.

Honorary Secretary;
Motiram S. Advani, Esq.

Members;

General H. S. Brownrigg (or the Officer Commanding the District).
Hon'ble T. L. F. Beaumont (or the Officer succeeding him as the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce).
Tahilram Khemchand, Esq., C.I.E.
C. E. Trafford, Esq.
Harchandrai Vishindas, Esq.
B. H. J. Rustomji, Esq.
Framroze E. Panthakey, Esq.
Asanmal T. Ojha, Esq.
Yusifali Alibhai, Esq.
Gulam Hussein Chagla, Esq.
S. C. Shahani, Esq.
Seth Loveji Hari.
Vishindas Fatehchand, Esq.
Seth Chellaram Dalumal.
Seth Gidumal Fatehchand.
Abdul Rahim, Esq.
Kazi Sharafdin.

(With power to add to their number.)

It was resolved to request the following District Officers to arrange for the creation of Local Committees in their districts to co-operate with the General Committee at Karachi:—

R. GILES, Esq., C.I.E., *Collector of Karachi.*
R. P. BARROW, Esq., I.C.S., *Collector of Hyderabad.*
H. C. MULES, Esq., *Collector of Shikarpur.*
W. H. LUCAS, Esq., I.C.S., *Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar.*
M. D. MACKENZIE, Esq., *Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier.*

It was further resolved to send the funds direct to the Central Committee at Calcutta, except such as those that may be ear-marked for Sind.

On the following day a meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the "Denso Hall," and with a view to reach all classes of people the work of collecting funds was divided amongst the different members of the Committee, and it was decided to issue an appeal in English, in Sindhi, and Gujerati to the public.

The Executive Committee met nine times to transact business and to allot funds.

Towards the end of March the attention of the Executive Committee was drawn to the large number of famine-stricken refugees about the streets of Karachi. At first it was resolved to have a Sub-Committee to open relief-

works for them at the "One Tree Tank," and devote ear-marked money for Karachi towards it, but at the following meeting this resolution was cancelled, and it was resolved to place the ear-marked money at the disposal of the Collector of Karachi and request him to arrange for the famine-stricken refugees.

The question of distributing ear-marked money for other parts of Sind was considered on the 12th of April, and it was resolved to place the funds at the disposal of the Commissioner in Sind and request him to make the required distribution.

The request of the Committee to form Local Committees was complied with by all the District Officers mentioned above, except the Collector of Shikarpur, (Mr. H. C. Mules), who wrote on the 16th of March to the effect that he had already raised a considerable sum for the relief of the famine-stricken refugees who had flocked into his district, and that as his appeal was very recent, it was hardly an appropriate time to make a fresh appeal, but that he would be very glad if the sum raised by him be shown in the accounts, thus showing that his district had taken part in the relief scheme. To this proposal the Committee agreed.

The total amount raised in the Province has been ₹1,55,035-15-2. Towards this the Karachi City has contributed ₹20,671-3-6, the Karachi District ₹17,945-2-3, the Hyderabad City and District ₹20,294-11-9, the Shikarpur District ₹32,983-5-5, the Khairpur State ₹50,250, the Upper Sind Frontier District ₹9,168-8-3, and the Thar and Parkar District ₹3,723. Details of the receipts and expenditure will be found in the balance-sheet herewith attached and which has been audited by the Huzur Deputy Collector, Karachi—(*vide* Appendix A.)

Out of this amount, ₹3,293-14-0 were ear-marked for Sind, and ₹5,842-14-0 for Karachi City, and ₹225 for Sehwan, and ₹32,281-13-5 for the Shikarpur District. The remaining balance of ₹1,13,290 was remitted to the Honorary Secretary, Central Committee, Calcutta.

It will be noticed that the largest amount has been contributed by the Khairpur State. Out of ₹50,250, ₹50,000 were contributed by His Highness Mir Sir Faiz Mahomed, G.C.I.E.

Excepting the Thar and Parkar District, the remaining districts in the Province were free from famine. Owing to want of fodder, due to the absence of rain, the cattle mortality was heavy in all the districts, and heaviest in the Thar and Parkar District.

Considering the state of things in the Thar and Parkar District, the Committee thinks that it is very creditable to that district to have contributed ₹3,723 to the Central Fund.

The Committee received two applications for help, one in April from the Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar, asking for an allotment of ₹50,000 for helping in starting in life again unfortunate graziers and cultivators who had lost their all. This application was forwarded through the Commissioner in Sind, who strongly supported it to the Bombay Committee. ₹25,000 were sanctioned at once, and a further allotment of ₹25,000 was made in May, thus placing ₹50,000 at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar.

The second application was received on the 8th June from the Collector of Hyderabad, forwarding a letter from the Honorary Secretary, Famine Charitable Relief Fund, (Hyderabad Branch), and asking for a grant of ₹1,000 for providing relief to those immigrants in the Hyderabad City who were too old and infirm to work for a living. This application was sent to the Commissioner in Sind, who remitted the amount from the money placed at his disposal.

It will be noticed from the report of the Collector of Shikarpur that out of ₹32,281-13-5 raised by him, ₹12,000 were remitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Thar and Parkar, as a donation to the Thar and Parkar Famine Relief Fund which had been started in October 1899, and the balance was spent in the district for providing work for an unusually large number of Marwari refugees

who had flocked into the district. By this way they were prevented from coming down to Karachi, where, no doubt, a majority would have fallen a prey to the plague then raging in the town. Looking to what had happened to the lassies in March 1899, who, owing to want of rain, had flocked to Karachi from Lus Beyla, and amongst whom the cholera played sad havoc, the Committee cannot help admiring the foresight displayed in this instance by Mr. Mules, the then Collector of Shikarpur. Great credit is due to that officer for raising the funds and for making such good use of it. Mr. Mules left for Europe in May, and the work of distribution has since then been carried on by his successor, Mr. Sladen.

The Collector of Hyderabad (R. P. Barrow, Esq.), called a meeting on the 24th March for collecting funds in aid of the Famine Fund. The Sub-Committee appointed raised R18,972-2-6. Full particulars will be found in the report of the Honorary Secretary, which is herewith attached.—(*vide* Appendix F.)

One special feature was the organization of the one day "Atta" contribution.

As a large number of the refugees had come to Hyderabad after the close of works at the Hajiwah, and as cholera had broken out at Hyderabad, the local Committee realised the danger to these poor starving creatures, and in order to prevent loss of life had them segregated in a garden on the Fuleli belonging to Bava Isardas. At first their wants were supplied from the allotment made by the Commissioner in Sind, R500 given by His Highness the Mir of Khairpur, and the contribution made by the local magnates, but later on, when the funds ran low, the scheme of the one day "Atta" contribution was started. Each well-to-do citizen took upon himself to provide for one day's cooked food for the people in camp.

The largest number fed in one day has been 800 people, and the lowest 200. There is no doubt the scheme has been a great success. While all around at the Fuleli and other adjoining villages a large number of cases of cholera occurred, there were only four or five in the camp. The total number of deaths in the camp from all causes was only seven.

In forwarding the Honorary Secretary's report, the Collector remarks:

"The whole of the work in connection with the camp has devolved on Messrs. Bulchand Dayaram and Tarachand Showkiram, and to them is due all the credit of the camp."

The Committee would take the opportunity of thanking Mr. Barrow for the great personal interest he has taken in raising the funds and in other ways to minimise the loss of life in his district by these timely measures.

The amount ear-marked for Karachi has been mostly spent in excavating the "One-tree Tank" where the refugees were collected. At one time there were 700 people working. The work of distribution and subscription was entrusted by the Collector to Khan Bahadur Framroze E. Panthakey, who took a great deal of interest in the welfare of the refugees, and who also raised the bulk of the contributions specially ear-marked for Karachi. A portion of the money was spent in sending refugees to their own country in Kathiawar and Lus Beyla and giving them rations on the road. The report is herewith attached,—(*vide* Appendix G.)

The Committee is especially grateful to Mr. Giles, Collector of Karachi, for the help given in raising contributions through the Mukhtyarkars in his district, and also to Messrs. Mackenzie and Lucas, Deputy Commissioners, Upper Sind Frontier and Thar and Parkar.

The amount ear-marked for Sind and placed at the disposal of the Commissioner in Sind has been spent in giving relief throughout the Province.

Excepting two changes, the composition of the Executive Committee remained the same. General Brownrigg retired, and he was succeeded for a short time by Colonel Hervey, and then by General J. H. Craigie. The Hon'ble Mr. T. L. F. Beaumont was succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. Dan. McIver.

The total cost of collection has been only about R100, spent chiefly on stationery, postage, and printing charges. The precentage comes to $\frac{1}{16}$ or one anna per hundred.

The Committee, in conclusion, begs to thank all the workers who, in their own way, have materially helped to collect money in aid of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

G. C. WHITWORTH,
Chairman.

MOTIRAM S. ADVANI,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer,
Famine Charitable Relief Fund,
(*Sind Branch*).

Dated Karachi, 12th October 1900.

APPENDIX A.

Famine Relief Fund of 1900 (Sind Branch).

Cr. *Dr.*

	₹	a.	p.
Amount contributed by the Khairpur State	50,250	0	0
,, ,, ,, Shikarpur District	32,983	5	5
,, ,, ,, Karachi City	20,671	3	6
,, ,, ,, Karachi District	17,945	2	3
,, ,, ,, Hyderabad City and District	20,294	11	9
,, ,, ,, Upper Sind Frontier	9,168	8	3
,, ,, ,, Thar and Parkar	3,723	0	0
Amount recovered from the Collector of Karachi, being an over-payment made to him on the 8th September 1900	100	0	0
TOTAL ₹	1,55,135	15	2

	₹	a.	p.
Amount remitted to the Collector of Shikarpur	32,281	13	5
,, ,, ,, Commissioner in Sind	3,293	14	0
,, ,, ,, Collector of Karachi	6,067	14	0
,, ,, ,, Central Committee, Calcutta	1,13,290	0	0
Printing charges for circulars, etc.	43	6	0
Stationery, etc.	3	4	0
Postage and telegram charges	46	6	0
Cost of cheque-books	3	2	0
Receipt-stamps granted by the Agra Bank	0	15	0
Discount of Bombay cheques	1	8	0
Money Order charges	3	0	0
Amount overpaid to the Collector of Karachi and subsequently recovered	100	0	0
Balance in National Bank of India, Ld.	0	12	9
TOTAL ₹	1,55,135	15	2

Certified that I have audited the Famine Relief Fund Accounts, Sind Branch, and that the above Balance Sheet is quite correct.

J. P. LOBO,
Huzur Deputy Collector,
Karachi.

MOTIRAM S. ADVANI,
Honorary Secetary and Treasurer,
Famine Relief Fund,
Sind Branch.

Karachi, 12th October 1900.

APPENDIX F.

Report.

The Hyderabad Branch of the Famine Fund was started on the 24th March last, when a public meeting of the inhabitants of Hyderabad was convened in the "Durbar Hall," at which the Commissioner in Sind presided. A number of speeches were made, ₹1,250 were subscribed on the spot, and an Executive Committee of twenty-one members was appointed, with Mr. Barrow, Collector of Hyderabad, as its Chairman. This Committee held a number of meetings and appointed a Sub-Committee, consisting of nine members to collect subscriptions from the City, and authorized the Honorary Secretary to remit them to the Sind Branch at Karachi. A sum of ₹4,052-12-6 was subscribed by the City of Hyderabad, of which R3,855-12-6 have been paid up to date. The balance remains to be collected. The subscriptions from the Talukas amounted to ₹15,117-6-0. Nearly the whole of these two sums amounting to R18,863-4-3, have been remitted to the Sind Branch. The collection Sub-Committee consisted of the following gentlemen:—

Mr. Hiranand Khemshing,
,, Mathradas Ramchand,
,, Tarachand Showkiram,
Mukhi Pritamdas,
Mukhi Gurudinomal,
Seth Haji Varial,
Kazi Imamali,
Mr. Nowroji, and
Mr. Bulchand Dayaram,

all of whom worked hard and at much sacrifice of their valuable time to get in subscriptions. Diwan Tarachand, Mr. Nowroji, Kazi Imamali and Mukhi Pritamdas took special trouble to collect subscriptions. The Executive Committee applied in May last to the Charitable Famine Relief Fund Committee for a grant of ₹1,000 in aid of the famine-stricken refugees from Rajputana, Guzerat, Cutch, Kathiawar, Thar and Parkar, etc., in the City of Hyderabad, who needed relief and this amount was sanctioned by the Commissioner in Sind in two instalments of ₹500 each. A relief camp was then opened in Bava Isardas's garden beyond the Fuleli on 23rd of June last, where good halting accommodation already existed, and the money received was applied in relieving their wants. The grants received from the Commissioner were supplemented by private charity to a large extent, a number of leading citizens agreeing to make cash or "Atta" contributions for the camp. His Highness the Mir of Khairpur contributed a sum of ₹500 for the expenses of the camp, and several native gentlemen also gave pretty large donations, among whom may be mentioned Khan Bahadur Kadirdad Khan, C.I.E., who paid ₹100, Mr. Manghumal Isardas, who paid ₹50, and Mr. Ghandumal Ramrakhiamal, who also paid ₹50. A Karachi Native Dramatic Company paid ₹75, and several Sind-work merchants and other Bania and Amil gentlemen furnished the entire expense of a day's feed. The camp has been of great service to the refugees, over two thousad of whom have at one time or another obtained help and relief in it. Of this number, about 1,200 persons in all where sent off on foot to Hajipur for work in batches from time to time, after being allowed to stay in the camp for two or three days' to recruit their exhausted energy and strength, and after being supplied with two days' food in advance for the journey. Three hundred persons were sent to fields and farms for work, one hundred were discharged to engage in menial service in the houses of citizens in the town, where they were all cared for, a hundred more were permitted to go out of the City to obtain work in adjoining villages, and the rest, consisting chiefly of weak, old, and sick persons were detained in camp. Nearly 200 sick people have been treated in the camp, the bulk of whom have been entirely restored to health. Dr. Tarachand, Health Officer, attended the sick twice a week, and Mr. Darumal, his Assistant, every day, and they worked with much zeal. Rations of flour (including salt, onions and chillies), as well as cooked-food, were supplied to the inmates of the camp, ranging from three quarters of a seer per day to one quarter, according to the age of the recipient. Cooked-food was supplied by charitable citizens and uncooked-food by the Committee. Although the camp has been in existence now for two months, Dewan Tarachand has worked so zealously to obtain donations, amounting to one day's expense of feeding the camp, and succeeded in obtaining them from such a large number, that the total expenditure on the camp, including the amount spent on supplying clothes, medicinal comforts, bullock cart-hire for despatching the luggage and children of famine-stricken emigrants to Hajipur, has up to this time been only about Rs. 800, although the average number of inmates in the camp has been over 500, and the number during the first week was between 800 and 1,400. The camp offered special protection to the immigrants during the time of the outbreak of cholera. While all around at the Fuleli and other adjoining villiages a large number of cholera cases occurred, there were only four or five in the camp. The total number of deaths in the camp from all causes up to date has been only six or seven. The camp also served the purpose of segregating the famine immigrants, (who would perhaps have been the chief victims of cholera when it broke out in the City, if not properly housed and fed as they were now), thereby reducing the danger of the infection to the people of the town

from them. No robust or able-bodied person was allowed to stay in the camp without doing work, thereby maintaining himself and sometimes a part of his family. A detailed report of the working of the camp will be furnished hereafter, if necessary, when it is closed.

BULCHAND DAYARAM,

27th August 1900. *Honorary Secretary.*

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
By subscriptions received from Talukas in Hyderabad as per list attached	15,117 6 0	To amounts remitted to Mr. Motiram S. Advani, Honorary Secretary, Famine Fund, Sind Branch, as per vouchers attached . .	18,863 4 3
By subscriptions received from the City of Hyderabad as per list attached	3,855 12 6	To discount on first *hundi* for ₹52,798 sent to Mr. Motiram .	5 12 9
		To postage, registration, carriage-hire, etc.	3 1 6
		To balance in hand . . .	100 0 0
Total .	18,972 2 6	Total .	18,972 2 6

BULCHAND DAYARAM,

24th August 1900. *Honorary Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CENTRAL PROVINCES PROVINCIAL BRANCH, FROM THE BEGINNING OF OPERATIONS TO THE END OF OCTOBER 1900.

The report on the Famine in the Central Provinces issued in May 1898 closed with the following pregnant words: "But the ground lost during the past four years will not be recovered in a season or two. It is a popular saying among cultivators that three good years are necessary to make up for one bad one. The saying may be tinged by the over-despondent tone which the farmer in all parts of the world uses when speaking of the prospects of his agriculture. But it is not unlikely that three years may pass before the Provinces throw off the last signs of the greatest famine of the century." Belying the teachings of past experience, barely sixteen months had gone by since the above was written, when it became abundantly clear that the Provinces were once more to be overwhelmed in a famine of even greater magnitude than what was previously thought to be the greatest famine of the century. The two intervening years (1897-98 and 1898-99) had not been such as to enable the people to make any appreciable progress towards recovering the ground lost in 1896-97 and win their way back to conditions of normal prosperity. Notwithstanding the great help from the noble Charity Fund of that year, the net area placed under crop in 1897-98 in the seventeen stricken districts was nearly a million and a half acres below the area in 1893-94, which was the last year when the Provinces had enjoyed as a whole the blessings of an all-round good harvest. The kharif, which gives the bulk of the people their food, was no doubt specially good, but the more valuable rabi, upon which their staying power mainly rests, gave a poor return, being seriously injured by want of dew and of winter rain. The result was that while the export of rice, the principal kharif, showed some recovery, being worth about 35½ lakhs of rupees as compared with about a crore in the years preceding the cycle of bad seasons, the export of wheat, the principal rabi, was worth only 11¼ lakhs as compared with one crore and 70 lakhs in 1892-93, and two crores and 40 lakhs in 1891-92. Thus in 1897-98 the depleted resources could not be replenished to any appreciable extent. The munificent grant of about 30 lakhs from the Charity Fund to the broken-down agriculturists, in addition to the 15¾ lakhs advanced by the State as *tacavi*, greatly contributed to whatever of progress was made during this year. In 1898-99 the kharif was no better than a fair average, but the rabi crops suffered in the same way as in 1897-98. These, though varying in character, were in no district good, in some even very poor. The cropped area increased by only about four lakhs of acres, but was still below the average of past good years by about ten lakhs of acres. The export of wheat rose, but the quantity exported was still only about 35 per cent. of the average of five years ending 1892-93. The rice showed better results, the export increasing to 22 lakhs of maunds as compared with 30 lakhs of previous good years.

Condition of the Province between the close of the famine of 1897 and the present famine.

2. Thus when the agricultural year 1899-1900 opened in June, the scars left by the previous famine had barely healed up and the people were wholly unprepared to withstand the shock of another seasonal disaster. But a drought more severe and widespread even than what in 1896-97 had sufficed to make the Central Provinces the most acutely distressed province in the whole Empire was to overtake them in 1899-1900, a drought that spared no district and no class of crop. The monsoon began badly. Instead of bursting upon the country in a steady downpour, it came on in a weak and halting manner and the parched-up land failed to get enough water to preserve a storage of moisture in the sub-soil so as to fit it for the reception and germination of the seed. After a few light showers, dry weather set in about the end of June, and for the time being all signs of monsoon disappeared. In July, owing to a series of storms in the Bay of Bengal, the Provinces received some moderate showers, but still the deficiency averaged 60 per cent. Similar conditions prevailed in August, and there was no making up of past months' shortcomings. Owing to a storm in the Bay, the eastern

The year 1899-1900.

districts received some good rain in September, but the rest of the Provinces remained practically in the same rainless condition as before. By the end of September, the Arabian Sea current, from which we draw our main supply, had almost disappeared and thereafter ceased to give us any rain, thus causing a drought, the like of which had not been experienced within living memory. In the western districts, the precipitation during the whole monsoon period was from one-fourth to one-half of the normal average, and in the central districts it was not more than half. It no doubt reached about 75 per cent. of the average in the eastern districts, but as the monsoon retreated in September and never re-established itself after that, even these districts failed to escape the common disaster. The rainfall during the cold season was practically *nil*, being only ·02 as against a normal provincial average of 2·82. The air was dry and without any aqueous vapour and no dew formed to help the rabi to grow. Under these adverse conditions the cropped area shrank even below the level of 1896-97. The outturn was also poor. Rice, the staple crop in the Chhattisgarh, was blasted almost in its entirety. Of four and three quarter millions of acres under it, barely a tenth gave anything worth cutting. The juar perished before it reached the ear, the only redeeming feature in its case being that its stalks gave some good fodder. The only crops that were saved out of the general wreck were til and in some parts cotton. These gave some return. The area sown with rabi fell by nearly 40 per cent. The germination was defective, and many of the young seedlings which struggled above the surface withered under the November sun. Such plants as survived reached stunted maturity long before the proper time for ripening. Over the whole of the south and west of the Provinces, the two principal rabi corps, wheat and linseed, were a failure. In the eastern districts the conditions were not quite so unfavourable. In the northern districts alone there was some reserve of moisture in the soil to enable the crops to hold out better. On the whole the outturn of wheat was only about 30 per cent. of the decennial average and that of linseed about a twentieth of the normal yield on a normal area. The blighting influence of the terrible drought was seen in the provincial average outturn for all crops taken together, which barely reached 26 per cent. of a normal outturn over a normal area, or a little below a four-anna crop as against 56 per cent. or a little above a seven-anna crop in 1896-97. Some idea of the enormous loss which these crop failures entailed would be realised when it is said that from 1st October 1899 to 30th September 1900, the export of wheat from railway stations in the Provinces was a little above a lakh of maunds as against $6\frac{3}{5}$ lakhs during the corresponding period in 1898-99. The corresponding figures for rice tell a more severe loss, being barely 43,000 maunds against $7\frac{3}{5}$ lakhs in 1898-99. The total export of wheat from 1st October 1899 to end of April 1900 was less than an eighth of the quantity exported during the corresponding period in 1893-94. How completely the crops were wrecked is further illustrated by the figures relating to the import of food-grains. In an ordinary year the Province has no need to import grains from outside to feed the people. In this respect its function is to export and not to import. In 1893-94 the value of food-grains imported was only about $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees. Even in 1896-97 it did not go beyond 37 lakhs. But in 1899-1900, the last two quarters of which alone are included in the famine year, it rose to $205\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. In these last two quarters, when alone famine conditions prevailed, the quantity imported was nearly 43 lakhs of maunds, which is twenty-six times the quantity imported in the corresponding period of the preceding year. This vast quantity was mostly paid for out of the moneys distributed by the State as famine relief in its various forms.

Loss of cattle in addition to loss of crops.

3. To add to the gravity of the situation and the miseries of the people, these grievous crop failures were accompanied by a considerable destruction of plough-cattle. As a result of the unprecedented drought, side by side with a famine of food-grains, there was an acute water and fodder famine over large areas such as had not been experienced before. Great efforts were put forth by the Administration to save the cattle under these peculiarly adverse circumstances by the opening up of forest reserves and by supplying the people with grass collected in Government forests, grass-cutting operations having been adopted as one of the measures for giving relief to the jungle tribes. Nevertheless the mortality was heavy,—

in some parts very heavy. Even before the advent of the hot weather, about two lakhs of plough-cattle had, according to the return published by the Commissioner of Agriculture, died. The export of hides and skins during the year ending the 31st March 1900 was 162,000 maunds, which is three times the quantity exported in 1893-94 and nearly 30,000 maunds more than the quantity in 1896-97. When, however, the tale of losses comes to be finally made up, it will be found to be even more serious than what the above figures indicate. For even in an ordinary year, it is at the beginning of the rains that the cattle, half starved and hard-worked during the hot weather, die in large number by greedily eating the new grass and the rank vegetation which springs up on all sides after the first heavy fall of rain. Unfortunately the monsoon this year was late in coming. As a consequence the hot-weather conditions were prolonged beyond the ordinary period, and the advent of the rains found the plough-cattle, after their exertions in the preparation of the fields, in a state of great exhaustion. The rank vegetation which came with the rain acted like poison on their weakened system and great has been the mortality among them. Already in several localities the level of prices has gone up 100 per cent. above the normal.

Elaborate Government preparations to meet the famine a proof of its great severity.

4. Thus, following upon several years of scarcity and one of acute famine, the year 1899-1900, with its almost total failure of rain and utter loss over large areas of two entire crops, found hungry millions in absolute want and destitution. But when the blow thus fell a second time within two years with such crushing severity it found an Administration fully alive to its responsibilities and keenly on the watch and a machinery of famine relief perfected in all its details and ready at all points to be brought into play on the first signs of the impending distress developing themselves. And although the demand for help reached proportions far exceeding anything which past experience had taught the Government to expect, it was never allowed to outstrip the capacity or dislocate the organization to meet it. But if such high percentages on relief as compared with the population of the affected tracts as 21, 23, 26, 29, 34, 39, reaching in one district even 40·6, showed the all-embracing character of the various forms of State relief, they in an equal degree showed that destitution reached a much higher stratum of society and covered a much wider ground than was the case in 1896-97. At first it was thought that the tests were not severe enough, and that many who needed no relief were taking undue advantage of it. But when the task was stiffened and the wage was reduced and yet the numbers fell not, it became abundantly clear that the Government was face to face with a calamity greatly transcending in its magnitude and severity the famine of 1897.

Great scope for charitable relief as supplementary to State relief.

5. The foregoing sketch of the condition of the Province would go to show that there was a very wide field for distribution of charitable relief as apart from State relief. More was needed to give adequate relief than a mere ration to sustain life, which alone the Government could and did give. There were thousands who needed clothes and blankets to cover them, many, unfitted by their past life to dig or break stones and thereby earn a living wage at the relief camps, *parda-nashin* women and respectable men, who would submit to any privation rather than seek State relief, orphans who might survive the ordeal of the famine and who would need to be fed and trained until they were able to help themselves, and above all, broken-down agriculturists who needed plough-cattle to replace the dead beasts and seed-grain to sow their lands, and petty artizans, whom a little help would enable them to take up the daily round of their humble life once more. The requirements of the Provinces under these and similar heads of charitable relief, as auxiliary to the relief given from the public revenues, were only limited by the amount of money that could be made available for the same.

Formation of the Central Provinces Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900.

6. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, was inaugurated on the 16th of February 1900, when a public meeting was held in Calcutta, over which His Excellency the Viceroy presided and at which resolutions were passed, recognizing the fact that the time had come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress, that the need

of relief was more urgent than it was in 1897, such relief being supplementary of the operations of the Government and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by those operations, and organizing a Central Committee to administer the fund. To constitute a provincial branch of the fund for the Central Provinces, a meeting was held at the Town Hall, Nagpur, on the 1st of March 1900, the Hon'ble Mr. Fraser, C.S.I., Chief Commissioner, presiding. The Chairman opened the proceedings by reading a telegram which he had received from His Excellency the Viceroy informing him of the great meeting held in Calcutta on the 16th of February and asking him to hold a public meeting at Nagpur, so as to give as much publicity as possible in the Central Provinces to the appeal for help. The Hon'ble Mr. Fraser then went on to refer to the munificent assistance which England was again extending to India, and to the splendid response which Calcutta had made to His Excellency's appeal. He said that the last famine was too recent to leave any necessity now for expounding the principles of charitable relief. And he would confine himself to a few words regarding the extent of the need in the Central Provinces. On this subject he said :—

The highest number of relief at the last famine was at the end of May 1897, when there were 479,542 on works and 212,172 on gratuitous relief, giving a total of 691,714 The latest figures for the present famine are 980,442 on works and 421,692 on gratuitous relief, giving a total of 1,402,134.* The figures are already more than double the highest figures for the last famine. And it may be stated that at the end of February 1897 the total was only 332,181, or less than one-fourth of the present figures for the Province. What is the reason for this great increase of numbers? You have no doubt heard several causes assigned as contributing to it. One is that the people of some districts have so recently passed through another famine that they understood our willingness to help and our methods of relief. They trust us more, are more ready to come to us for help and know better where to go. This is true: and surely it is ground for congratulation. The people do know and trust us better.

Another cause assigned for the great increase of numbers is that the people have been demoralized and pauperized by past experience of relief. I at once admit that this is to a certain extent true; but it is true to a very limited extent. I have inspected works and gratuitous relief in all parts of the Province, and I am able to assure you that the demoralization of the people is very little manifested. There are some people on some works who do not actually require relief. But the most rigorous inspection would not enable any officer to turn many off the works with a clear conscience. The vast majority need relief. There are indeed some amusing pictures to be seen, if one can see anything of amusement amidst such real distress, in some of the relief camps in the Nerbudda Division. There you may see little bands of Marwaris from distant parts of Central India coming on the works, sometimes with carts or camels and all their little household possessions, like people coming to a picnic or holiday outing. One can easily understand how the casual and unsympathetic observer would be struck by such a picture and how he could caricature it in a one-sided attack on our famine policy. But let him ask these people why they are there; and let them reply. They will tell him that they have been drawn from their own country, because they could not get a drop of water to drink; so they have come as exiles amongst us. Being here as exiles and without credit and with wholly inadequate means for getting through these weary months, they are compelled to seek the office of stone-breaker that they may eat a piece of bread: not a very attractive or lucrative office surely. If the respectable critic had to take their place he would find other reasons than mere want of self-respect for regarding it as an extremely unhappy one.

I have witnessed such scenes, and I have examined them. I give you the impression my examination has left on my mind. Amongst our own people, on the other hand, there is no such apparent evidence of comfort on the relief works. And as I have said, the cases in which want of self-respect is mainly responsible for sending the labourer to the works are very few. No, gentlemen, the main cause of the largely increased numbers on relief in the present famine,—the cause which dwarfs all others into insignificance,—is the terrible severity of the calamity which has fallen on the Province. The people had not recovered from the effects of the last famine, when this famine greater both in intensity and in extent fell upon them. The Province has been sorely stricken beyond description, the people are inexpressibly broken and distressed. We who have seen them in their trouble appeal to you for help.

The following resolutions were then passed :—

(i) That this meeting desires to express on behalf of the people of the Central Provinces their gratitude to His Excellency the Viceroy and the Right Hon'ble the Lord Mayor of London for the second Famine Relief Fund now to be constituted, and that this meeting desires to join and co-operate in the movement to the best of its ability.

* Even this number was exceeded in the middle of August, when the total swelled up to 2,308,949 out of a population of 10,784,294 of the affected tracts.

(ii) That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to administer and distribute any funds that may be subscribed within the Province or received from the Central Committee :—

Chairman.—Mr. Stanley Ismay, I.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces.

Members.—The Right Revd. Bishop Pelvat, of the Roman Catholic Church, Central Provinces; The Revd. J. Douglas of the Free Church Mission, Nagpur; Mr. R. H. Craddock, I.C.S., Famine Secretary to the Chief Commissionor; Mr. Gangadhar Rao Madho Chitnavis, C.I.E., Nagpur; Rao Bahadur Bhargao Rao Gadgil, Judge, Small Cause Court, Nagpur; Khan Bahadur Bezonji Dadabhoy Mehta, Manager, Empress Mills, Nagpur, and Khan Saheb Amir Khan, Pleader, Nagpur.

Member and Secretary.—The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bipin Krishna Bose, C.I.E., Advocate.

Subsequently Rao Bahadur Waman Rao Kolhatkar, Officiating Judicial Assistant to the Commissioner, Nagpur Division, and Mr. Vasudeo Rao Pandit, Barrister-at-Law, were made members, the latter being also made Joint Secretary. At a later stage the four Divisional Commissioners were made *ex-officio* members.

Formation of District Committees and their constitution.

7. The Provincial Committee thus formed held its first meeting on the 13th of March 1900, and following the precedent of 1897, it was resolved to invite the Deputy Commissioners of all the eighteen districts in the Provinces to form District Committees to raise subscriptions, to receive moneys that might be apportioned to them out of the provincial fund, and administer the same, as also all local subscriptions intended for local wants in accordance with the statement of objects to which private subscriptions might legitimately be applied as declared and adopted at the Calcutta meeting of the 16th of February 1900. It was pointed out that while the District Officer must of necessity be the backbone of the committees, they should in the main be non-official in their character, the active aid and co-operation of the non-official public being utilized to the fullest extent in their formation and working. No difficulty was experienced in forming these committees, as most of those who had successfully worked the organization in 1897 were still in the districts and they readily offered their services on the present occasion. Moreover, in almost all the districts private charity had already on the first appearance of distress been organized into local committees and these everywhere supplied a convenient nucleus. In many cases it was only necessary to convert and affiliate the existing committees into branches of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The following statement shows the constitution of the District Committees :—

District.	Chairman.	Secretary.	Number of official members.	Number of non-official members.
Saugor . .	Mr. R. C. H. Moss King, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Pandit Kashinath Kher Rao, Pleader.*	1	11
Damoh . .	„ W. N. Maw, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Rai Bahadur Lakhmichand, Pleader.	5	17
Jubbulpore .	„ B. Robertson, I.C.S., C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner.	Pandit Laxman Rao Sheorey, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.	6	15
Mandla . .	„ L. E. P. Gaskin, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. Vithal Baskar Kekre, Pleader.	5	8
Seoni . .	„ A. Mayne, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ Gouri Shankar Bhargao, Pleader.	4	13
Narsinghpur .	„ E. A. deBrett, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ Sadasheo Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.	6	17

* Just as this report was being closed came the sad news that Mr. Kashinath Rao was no more. Nevertheless his name has been retained, for on him had devolved the duty of administering the Fund and most worthily did he discharge that duty. His death is a heavy loss.

District.	Chairman.	Secretary.	Number of official members	Number of non-official members.
Hoshangabad .	Mr. A. S. Womack, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	Mr. Jadunath Datt, Malguzar .	10	29
Nimar . .	„ J. Walker, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ Krisha Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.	4	12
Betul . .	„ B. P. Standen, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ Panda Baijnath, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.	5	6
Chhindwara .	„ R. A. B. Chapman, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ Mathura Prasad, Pleader .	6	20
Wardha . .	„ S. M. Chitnavis, Deputy Commissioner.	„ Krishna Rao Deshmukh, Pleader.	4	8
Nagpur . .	„ A. L. Saunders, I.C.S, Deputy Commissioner.	„ M. B. Dadabhoy, Barrister-at-Law.	3	7
Chanda . .	„ J. W. Coxon, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	The Reverend Alexander Wood.	3	4
Bhandara . .	Rao Saheb Rang Rao, Pleader .	Mr. Ramkrishna Rao Pandit, Extra-Assistant Commissioner.	3	19
Balaghat . .	Mr. J. T. Marten, I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Comissioner.	„ M. M. Mullna, M.A., B.L., Pleader.	3	8
Raipur . .	„ A. D. Younghusband, I.C.S., Commissioner.	„ D. G. Oswell, Principal, Rajkumar College.	13	24
Bilaspur . .	„ H. F. Mays, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ N. N. De, Barrister-at-Law	8	13
Sambalpur .	„ F. S. A. Slocock, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner.	„ B. C. Muzumdar, Pleader.	3	11
		TOTAL .	96	239

It will be observed that in the case of twelve districts, the same gentlemen who had so worthily filled the office of Secretaries on the last occasion are also Secretaries on the present occasion. It will be further seen that 71 per cent. of the members are non-officials. In sixteen districts, the Deputy Commissioner is the Chairman, in one the Commissioner, and in one only the Chairman is a non-official. He had filled the same office with distinction during the last famine. In thirteen districts the working Secretary is a non-official. The administrative machinery thus brought into existence is based on a full recognition of the principle of Government control and of sympathetic and harmonious co-operation between the official and non-official classes. The non-official members have been drawn from all classes of the community, and the services of Missionary gentlemen, wherever available, have been thankfully accepted.

The Chhattisgarh Feudatories.

8. Besides the eighteen British districts the Provincial Committee had also to arrange for distribution of charitable relief in the Feudatory States in the Chhattisgarh. The condition of things in these States is best explained in the following extract from a letter dated the 24th March 1900, from Mr. F. G. Sly., I.C.S., Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories:—

Out of the fourteen States comprising this Agency, famine is now prevailing in nine States, namely, Kawardha, Chhuikhadan, Khairagarh, Nandgaon, Kanker, Bastar, Sakti, Raigarh and Sarangarh. The total area affected by famine is 7,347 square miles and the population exceeds eight hundred and fifty thousand. In addition two other States, Sonepur and Patna, are affected by acute scarcity which is rapidly deepening into famine, and it has already been necessary to start relief measures upon a small scale, which are being extended with the extension of the distress during the hot weather. The amount of relief which is at present being given will be apparent from the following statistics taken from the latest famine returns—

Number on works	34,308
Number gratuitously relieved	12,949
TOTAL .	47,257

The severe famine has been caused by circumstances practically similar to those in the adjoining British districts of Raipur and Bilaspur, and as these are well known to your Committee; it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate them in detail. Briefly it may be stated that there has been an almost complete failure of both the autumn and spring harvests, and this calamity has fallen upon an impoverished people, who had not recovered from the disastrous effects of the famine of 1896-97, which was as severe in many States as in the adjoining British territory. In particular some States, notably Kawardha, have suffered from a continuous succession of bad harvests, both preceding and succeeding the famine of 1896-97, and the resources of the people have been tried to their utmost by this unparalleled series of misfortunes. Even prior to this famine, much land had quite gone out of cultivation and there had been a serious contraction of the cropped area owing to the exhaustion of the resources of the cultivators. The present famine has enormously intensified the difficulties of the situation.

Each and every State has loyally done its utmost for its distressed subjects, and active measures have everywhere been taken to provide relief measures on a scale commensurate with the calamity. But the financial resources of all the States are very limited, and it is impossible for them to provide relief on the same complete scale that is given in British territory. The Government have already graciously made loans to some States in which otherwise it would have been necessary to close relief for want of funds. There is thus an even wider scope for the action of private charity in the States than there is in the British districts. There is no intention to relieve the Chiefs from their obligation to provide relief for their subjects, so far as lies in their power; nor indeed would any Chief desire to be so relieved; but outside such limits there is an almost inexhaustible sphere in which private charity can act for the relief of distress. Several States have been obliged to contract the amount of village relief which is admissible under the Government rules to people in their homes and to enforce most rigid tests upon applicants for all forms of relief.

After touring in the famine-stricken States, as I have done, it is impossible not to notice the large scope that there is for the help of private charity outside the regular relief measures adopted by the States and within the limits of the four objects which are recognised by the Fund. Indeed, efforts have in a small way already been made by private charity in the States to relieve the most pressing cases. But as a rule there is not the same proportion of monied classes from which subscriptions can be obtained, and yet to give one instance, in the small town of Raj-Nandgaon alone, the sum of ₹2,453 was raised by private subscriptions as a charitable Famine Fund. And one of the most striking features in the States is the very large amount of relief which is being given by the headmen of villages by opening village works at their own expense for the relief of famine-stricken residents of their villages. A visit to a poor-house or kitchen will show a considerable proportion of old persons and young children with practically no clothing to whom the gift of a cloth would give much comfort. Special food is also sometimes required by the infirm and the sick, and in particular it has been found necessary to give it to young children at the breast, whose mothers have not been able to properly suckle their babies. There is also a considerable number of orphans,—some whose parents died or deserted them in the last famine, and some who have been similarly deserted in the present famine. These orphans are collected in poor-houses and kitchens and often require extra comforts. As I have remarked above, it has been found necessary to enforce rigid tests in the grant of gratuitous relief to persons in their own homes, and this necessity leaves a considerable scope for private charity in the alleviation of the distress of the *parda-nashin* and the respectable poor. But these objects sink into insignificance compared with the need that there is for providing cultivators with the means to start them again in life. I have remarked above that in some States, even prior to the famine, the cultivators had not been able to resume to the full extent their occupation and means of livelihood, and this will of course be enormously intensified by the present severe calamity. The almost complete failure of the harvests has caused immense difficulties in regard to the provision of seed-grain, and the funds of the States will only permit of the grant of comparatively small amounts as agricultural advances. Many plough-cattle have been and will be sold for subsistence or will die from want of fodder, and there is bound to be a great demand to replace them. But even this is a minor matter compared with seed-grain. A very large number of cultivators have therefore only to look to private charity to assist them to start in life again. It is unnecessary to give statistics, for the value of seed-grain required must amount to crores of rupees. The most pressing demand in the States is undoubtedly for seed-grain, and the bulk of any grant made by the Charitable Fund will, with the approval of the Committee, be devoted to this object.

It is difficult to give any estimate of the needs of the States for assistance from the Charitable Fund, for the need is so great that it is practically unlimited. The grant received during the famine of 1896-97 was ₹35,000 and this fell far short of real requirements, whilst the present need is infinitely greater.

The machinery for distribution as organized by the Political Agent is thus described by him in another letter:—

You will observe that I recommend that local Committees should be formed under the presidency of the Diwan or Superintendent of the State. The Diwan or Superintendent

is always a responsible officer and is usually also a Government servant of standing, whose services are lent to the State. He is well acquainted with local conditions, and seems in all respects to be the best person to select to be the principal executive officer for the distribution of charitable relief. To assist him in this work, local Committees will be formed in which the services of non-officials will, as far as possible, be enlisted, but in some backward States it will be difficult to find non-officials of sufficient standing and education. The ordinary establishment of the State will be able to give all the necessary assistance to the local Committee and the Diwan or Superintendent. In most States there is a Land Records establishment, which will be employed in collecting the information required by the local Committees for the proper distribution of grants for seed-grain and bullocks for the rehabilitation of cultivators. This is the object upon which the grant can most usefully be employed, and I propose to suggest to the local Committees that the bulk of it should be spent upon this object.

Conference with the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, C. S. I., Honorary Secretary, Central Committee.

9. The Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, C.S.I., Honorary Secretary, Central Executive Committee, came to Nagpur in the last week of March 1900, to confer with the Provincial Committee as to the requirements of the Provinces and the principles which were to dominate the distribution of relief. The following extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee explains what was settled at the conference :—

The conference opened with a general discussion of the situation in the Central Provinces. It was agreed on all hands that the bulk of the fund should be applied to the relief of the broken-down peasantry.

The Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton impressed upon the Committee the fact that while the present Relief Fund was not likely to be anything like the fund of 1897, the distress extended over a vast area and was made more acute by the water-famine which already existed in several parts and threatened to overtake others in the coming hot months. This, combined with the anxiety of the subscribers to relieve as large a number of people as possible, made it extremely desirable (1) that every care should be taken that no more money was spent on any individual cultivator than was just sufficient to enable him to resume his cultivation and to restore his credit, and (2) that means should be devised and measures adopted whereby the comparatively smaller fund of 1900 would go as far as, if not further than, the fund of 1897 in relieving the distressed population of these Provinces. Mr. Smeaton further pointed out that it was not the object of the fund, as was erroneously believed in some quarters, though not in the Central Provinces, during the last famine, to make prosperous farmers; the fund having been started with the less ambitious but more useful object of, so to say, bringing on to the rails such persons as were being derailed and prevented from pursuing their usual course of life owing to the famine. With these prefatory remarks, which were fully concurred in by all present, Mr. Smeaton went on to discuss the details of the administration of the present Relief Fund.

Coming to the parts of the Central Provinces which were most affected, it was ascertained that, excepting Eastern Sambalpur and some of the Feudatories adjoining it, the whole of the Province was more or less affected. The worst affected districts were the rice-producing tracts, *viz.*, Western Sambalpur, whole of Bilaspur, Raipur, Bhandara and Balaghat, and the rice-growing portions of Seoni, Chanda, and Nagpur. The northern districts such as Mandla and Narsinghpur, which were most affected during the last famine, were comparatively better off this year, but some relief would be necessary even there, Next in order came the kharif districts of Nimar, Wardha, Betul, Chhindwara and parts of Hoshangabad, Jubbulpore Saugor, and Damoh. But Saugor, Damoh, Mandla, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, and Jubbulpore (Saugor and Damoh) in particular would want relief later on. It was thus settled that the whole of the Province, except a portion of Sambalpur and for the present Mandla also, needed relief.

The next point taken up was how much would be required for the various objects. It was settled that, as put down in the Committee's letter to the Central Committee estimating the requirements of the Central Provinces, the sum of R50,000 already received from the Central Committee out of the balance of the old fund, supplemented by local subscriptions, should be held sufficient for the first three objects. Most of this money would be spent on clothing and blankets, and it was intimated by Mr. Craddock that the Cawnpore Mills had offered 1,000 blankets as a gift to the Betul Committee and that an offer of blankets at cost price, *viz.*, R1-9-0 per blanket, had been made to the Local Government.

Coming then to the most important of all the four objects, *viz.*, Object IV, Mr. Smeaton wished to emphasize the fact that the kharif sowings being at hand, the whole of the available fund should be spent on it and every effort made to enable the most broken-down of the cultivators to sow a sufficient portion of their lands and thereby to reap a harvest just enough to give them food-grain for the future and restore their credit with their money-lenders, so as to place them in a position to borrow seed and bullock-power for the more valuable rabi. The principal recipients of grants for the kharif sowings would therefore be the western portion of Sambalpur, Bilaspur, Raipur, Bhandara, Balaghat, and parts of Seoni, Chanda, and Nagpur, where rice was largely grown. Nimar, Wardha, Betul and Chhindwara, and partly Hoshangabad would also largely come in for

kharif grants, there being considerable juar, small millets and cotton cultivation in them.

Next as to the assistance that would have to be rendered to each tenant deserving of relief, it was settled that (1) seed-grain, (2) bullocks or bullock-power, and (3) food-grain for the months during which agricultural operations would last would have to be given. As to (1) seed-grain, it was remarked that there was sufficient seed for juar sowings in the Province, but that the scanty store of indigenous rice was a matter for anxiety. Referring to the stock of indigenous rice-seed, Mr. Craddock conjectured that seed sufficient to sow a third of the rice area would be found forthcoming in the Province itself, but the prices being three times the normal, it would cost as much as 20 lakhs to buy seed for sowing 20 per cent. of the usually cultivated rice area. It was pointed out that in spite of the difficulty of growing rice in these Provinces, rice-seed was being ordered in large quantities from Bengal, Durbhanga, and other parts. It was decided, however, that the Committee should not take upon itself the supply of seed, but should content itself with money-grants therefor, inasmuch as it would be undesirable to enter into competition with private trade and further as the tenant could drive a better bargain for himself.

The question, however, of bullocks overshadowed all other questions relating to the relief of agriculturists. Fodder was available in large quantities and at no very high rates, but water was scarce. Many of the agriculturists who would be deserving of relief would have lost their cattle by the time the sowing time would arrive. Mr. Smeaton pointed out that, though bullocks would be needed by a large number of cultivators, the fund could not afford to make gifts of bullocks to all of them. After discussion it was settled that all that could under the circumstances be done would be to give the tenants bullock-power, not a pair of bullocks each or even one bullock each. Hiring should as far as possible be resorted to. It was pointed out that in districts where there was a general custom of hiring, this would be easy enough, but there might be difficulties in districts where this custom did not exist, and for such districts (the determination whereof would depend upon the discretion and local knowledge of the District Committees), the Committee should in the last resort buy cattle and hand them over to the most trustworthy and respectable inhabitants of the village, who would be paid for their keep and would give them for use to the deserving and needy tenants turn by turn. The ownership in these cattle would, however, remain with the Committee. It was pointed out by Mr. Fox-Strangways that in a district like Raipur, where the ploughing has to be done at and within a particular period, the hiring might be difficult and the arrangements to give bullocks for use by turns would in practice be found difficult to carry out. It was therefore finally resolved that bearing in mind the superiority of the system of hiring for the purposes of the charity fund, it should be adopted first if practicable; if not, then purchase of bullocks with a view to giving the needy tenants only the right of user; but that in this matter the local Committees be left a wide margin of discretion to adapt their methods to the varying needs and circumstances of each district.

Food-grain was of course agreed to be given to the agriculturist while he was engaged on his field.

Lastly, as regards the agency for the distribution of relief and the selection of the recipients, it was intimated by Mr. Smeaton that the Central Committee had as a whole admitted that the system followed in the Central Provinces was difficult to improve upon. The same agency as was employed during the last famine would now be employed, only it would on the present occasion be much more efficient, the number of Government officers on famine duty being much larger now than before. It was also suggested by Mr. Craddock that as the *tacavi* advances were made by Revenue Officers, they should also have the work of distributing charitable relief, inasmuch as this would save two visits to the same village and prevent overlapping,—the refusal of *tacavi* loan being ordinarily a fair test of eligibility for charitable relief. It was also agreed that relief passes or pay-orders should be given to the persons selected for relief, these passes or orders being payable at a future date, in June or July, when seed would be necessary, so as to give the person to be relieved the necessary power to arrange for his seed, etc., on the strength of the pass or order and yet to prevent the amount awarded being diverted to illegitimate purposes.

Receipts.

10. The total receipts have been ₹30,77,276. The details are shown below:—

	₹
Received from the Central Committee up to date, including ₹1,520, being ear-marked subscriptions for the Provinces	28,12,520
Subscriptions realized in the Provinces	2,61,933
Miscellaneous	2,823
TOTAL	30,77,276

The grants made from the general fund have been most liberal, and our warmest thanks are due to the Central Executive Committee for the generous

manner in which our wants have from time to time been met. The local subscriptions have aggregated R2,61,933 as against R75,894 realized during the last famine. The amount will appear small as compared with what has been raised in other parts. But the Province is not rich, and as the bulk of the people derive their income from land, the succession of agricultural failures during recent years has greatly told on the resources of even the wealthiest among them. The only people whose income is not affected by these crop failures, who, on the contrary, are able often times to make money in these hard times, are traders importing and exporting food-grains. They, however, form a very limited class, and moreover very few among them subscribe to a fund like ours. When charitably disposed, they prefer distributing their charity in their own way. Nevertheless, as the list of subscribers shows, some of the principal trading firms contributed handsomely to the fund. Even as regards the general community, the measure of their charity should not be gauged by what they give to a public fund. In various ways, which never come to the notice of the public, they help their suffering neighbours, and this kind of charity has by no means been stinted during the present famine. The last head (miscellaneous) represents odds and ends, such as sale-proceeds of goods delivered by persons relieved under Object III and of such articles as weights and measures of grain-shops, packing boxes, gunny bags, etc.

Provincial Committee's Receipts (in cash and kind) and how they have been utilized.

11. Besides the grant of R28,12,520 from the Central Committee, the Provincial Committee realized subscriptions aggregating R47,943. Thus its cash receipts have been R28,60,463. It further received from the Central Committee 21 dozen bottles of Mellin's Food, six cases of cornflour, one case of arrowroot, two cases of Swiss milk, three bales of cloth, and some quinine. Mr. Rajaram Tukaram, of Bombay, sent a consignment of blankets. The subscriptions include R1,500 paid by Sir Charles Lyall, late Chief Commissioner of these Provinces, R500 received from Mr. W. B. Jones, one of our past Chief Commissioners, and R1,000 from Mr. C. W. McMinn, formerly a Deputy Commissioner in these Provinces. Two other retired officers of Commission, Messrs J. W. Neill and F. C. Anderson, also sent subscriptions. A sum of R1,000 was sent by Mr. Jehangir Bomanji Petit, of Bombay, to be specially used in buying cloth. His original intention was to send Bombay mill-made cloth, but it was represented to him that cloth of the kind in use in these parts could be more advantageously purchased locally. With this money, added to some small subscriptions paid with similar special instructions, 973 *dhotees*, 276 *chudders*, and 418 *saris* were purchased and 999 *kurtas* made. The cash in the hands of the Provincial Committee has been thus spent:—

	R
Grants to the 18 District Committees	26,95,500
Grants to the Chhattisgarh Feudatories	1,60,000
Grants to the Roman Catholic Mission, Nagpur, for starting in life famine orphans on its hands as agriculturists	1,000
Grants to the Reverend J. Douglas, of the Free Church Mission, Nagpur, for relieving respectable people in distress	800
Grant to Sister Ignatius, of St. Joseph's Convent, Kamptee, for relieving respectable families in villages visited by her during her tour through the distressed tracts	800
Purchase of cloth, etc., in pursuance of special instructions of donors	1,167
Office expenditure, including postage and telegrams	445
Miscellaneous expenditure, such as railway freight, cartage, packing charges, etc., for sending consignments to District Committees, as also allowance to the Auditor to be hereafter recouped by the Central Committee	137
TOTAL	28,59,849

The balance to the credit of the Provincial Committee on the 1st of December 1900 was R614.

Grants to the District Committees.

12. The details of the sum of ₹26,95,500 given as grants to District Committees are as follows:—

District.	Grant. ₹
Saugor	1,73,000
Damoh	81,000
Jubbulpore	1,27,000
Mandla	65,500
Seoni	1,14,000
TOTAL	5,60,500
Narsinghpur	45,000
Hoshangabad	2,14,000
Nimar	94,000
Betul	1,77,500
Chhindwara	1,26,500
TOTAL	6,57,000
Wardha	92,000
Nagpur	1,17,000
Chanda	1,52,000
Bhandara	1,93,500
Balaghat	1,32,500
TOTAL	6,87,000
Raipur	4,64,000
Bilaspur	2,95,000
Sambalpur	32,000
TOTAL	7,91,000
GRAND TOTAL	26,95,500

The first distribution took place on the 13th of April 1900, when ₹7,26,000 were allotted to the District Committees and ₹25,000 to the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, specially for kharif sowings. In the beginning of May, a further allotment of ₹4,85,000 was made to the District Committees and ₹25,000 to the Political Agent, for the same object. ₹16,000 were also given at the same time to seven districts for the first three objects. In June, a third allotment of ₹4,64,000 was made for aid to agriculturists and one lakh was given for the first three objects. Besides these, ₹80,000 were given to the Feudatory States. In July a further sum of ₹1,03,500 was given to the District Committees and ₹20,000 to the Feudatories for the first three objects. Some opportune grants from the Central Committee enabled the Provincial Committee to make allotments for rabi sowings in September, October, and November, to the extent of ₹8,01,000 to the District Committees and ₹10,000 to the Feudatories. It was left to the discretion of the Committees to spend some portion of this last grant on the first three objects, if they found it necessary to do so. Thus the British districts got in all ₹26,95,500 and the Feudatories ₹1,60,000.

Expenditure.

13. The total expenditure has been ₹29,89,498, the details being as follows:—

	₹
Under Object I	1,99,531
Do. do. II	1,775
Do. do. III	49,638
Do. do. IV	20,89,561
Office establishment and contingencies	3,035
Miscellaneous	9,981
Advances made to Relief Officers and not yet accounted for	6,35,977
TOTAL	29,89,498
Add balance with the Provincial Committee	614
Do. do. District Committees	51,210
Do. do. Political Agent	35,954
GRAND TOTAL	30,77,276

(Annas and pies have been omitted).

which equals the grand total of receipts. The heading "Advances" needs a word of explanation. The exigencies of relief require that money should be advanced to Relief Officers to be spent by them from time to time according to their instructions on some one of the objects of the fund. An advance made under such circumstances is not real expenditure on relief and does not become so until it is actually spent in giving relief under some one or other of the prescribed objects. When this is done, the Relief Officer renders an account of what has been spent on actual relief and returns the unspent balance, if any. The amount thus spent is then entered under its appropriate head or heads (one or more of the four objects) and the advance originally made is wiped out by a corresponding entry on the receipt side as "Advances recovered." At the final adjustment of account the advance items on both sides must disappear, and there will then remain the actual receipts and expenditure. The item of R5,35,977 under the head "Advances" thus represents the aggregate of moneys in the hands of Relief Officers, with respect to which no account has yet been rendered. Almost the whole of this sum is the unaccounted-for balance of the moneys paid to Relief Officers for making grants for rabi seeds. It must by this time have been spent, but until the Relief Officers send in their reports, it cannot be entered under Object IV, but must continue to be shown as an "Unadjusted advance." It will be observed that excluding this nominal item, the proportion which expenditure on relief bears to the total expenditure is 99·5 per cent. Out of this again, the expenditure under Object IV accounts for 89 per cent. Office expenditure is only ·14 per cent of the total or one-fourth of a pie in the rupee. It would thus appear that the fund has been utilized to the utmost extent possible in giving actual relief. This gratifying result was made possible by the circumstance that the administration of the fund was in most parts a labour of love with all. Miscellaneous expenditure is mostly made up of charges incurred in transporting clothes, blankets, fodder for cattle, and in one district maize, to the various relief centres.

Details of expenditure.

14. The following statement shows the expenditure distributed under the prescribed heads:—

Name of the Committee.	Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.	Miscellaneous Expenditure.		Total.
					Office expenditure.	Other expenditure.	
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Executive Committee, Central Provinces.	1,835	1,009	932	...	445	136	4,348
Saugor	5,871	...	8,343	1,56,770	162	625	1,71,771
Damoh	5,315	...	2,484	36,254	41	133	44,227
Jubbulpore	4,793	...	1,783	1,32,221	...	35	1,38,832
Mandla	3,980	...	4,738	56,236	21	95	65,070
Seoni	8,416	...	1,773	1,02,912	69	96	1,13,266
Narsinghpur	4,337	...	536	41,450	...	216	46,539
Hoshangabad	8,418	...	3,962	37,817	154	66	50,417
Nimar	87	...	1,623	74,659	273	369	77,011
Betul	27,578	...	...	1,30,195	371	324	1,58,468
Chhindwara	27,989	44	1,299	1,02,262	71	601	1,32,266
Wardha	322	82	12,792	84,554	122	3,601	1,01,473
Nagpur	7,180	...	1,182	1,14,485	100	32	1,22,979
Chanda	15,175	...	2,299	64,741	346	104	82,665
Bhandara	9,691	...	3,522	1,40,000	290	247	1,53,750
Balaghat	10,278	...	....	91,065	6	...	1,01,349
Raipur	47,447	...	1,126	4,10,686	278	3,005	4,62,542
Bilaspur	...	...	...	1,65,781	279	15	1,66,075
Sambalpur	1,852	...	...	33,500	...	1	35,353
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	8,959	647	1,237	1,13,968	...	273	1,25,084
			Add total of annas and pies omitted				36
Total	1,99,531	1,775	49,638	20,89,561	3,035	9,981	23,53,521

Number relieved.

15. The following statement gives the number of persons relieved :—

Name of the Committee.	Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.
Exeeutive Committee, Central Provinces .	3,326	983	814	...
Saugor	6,859	...	22,374	17,890
Damoh	...	...	927	9,033
Jubbulpore	6,396	...	7,842	12,678
Mandla	580	...	1,329	11.924
Seoni	10,286	...	2,191	10,868
Narsinghpur	5,322	...	187	10,012
Hoshangabad	12,429	...	1,496	5,080
Nimar	111	...	152	9,470
Betul	14.639	...	...	14,065
Chhindwara	34,209	107	497	13,767
Wardha	756	126	2,436	6 476
Nagpur	9,032	...	842	9,499
Chanda	...	...	14,314	2,577
Bhandara	21,093	...	5,675	12,721
Balaghat	16,052	...	...	8,738
Raipur	40,901	...	559	60,817
Bilaspur	...	...	...	20,490
Sambalpur	3,704	...	...	11,166
Chhattisgarh Feudatories . . .	14,419	970	1,294	56,685
TOTAL .	200,114	2,186	62,929	303,956

The figures given here are not exhaustive. Some of the distributing officers have not yet been able to send their final reports, and until this is done, the figures will not be complete. No attempt has been made to strike averages or make comparisons in the present imperfect state of the figures. This will be done when the final report is submitted.

Apportionment of the fund under the four objects.

16. A comparatively small portion of the fund has been spent on the first three objects. It was recognized from the very outset that much money would not be needed under these heads. The majority of the people in receipt of Government relief were in good condition, and to maintain them in health and strength it was not necessary to spend much on special or extra food, or on medical comforts. Again, owing to the timely inauguration of Government relief and the high state of efficiency to which it attained and at which it was kept up, there were very few cases of aimless wandering and consequent separation of parents from their children, or death of the former through privation, leaving the latter uncared for. The elaborate system of village relief also very much narrowed the scope for charitable relief under Object III. So that the relief under these three heads was principally confined to gifts of clothing and blankets. As decided at the conference with the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, the bulk of the Fundwas everywhere reserved for the agriculturists. Crushed down by a long succession of unprecedented misfortunes, they deserved and needed all the help the fund could give them.

17. The extracts from district reports which form an Appendix to this report will show how the work of distribution was managed. The agency used was in the main the same as the Government employed for the distribution of State relief. The relief officers of Government were everywhere helped by the members of the District Committees and they all worked in harmonious co-operation. In distributing clothes special care was taken to ensure that only the most deserving got the benefit of the gift. To secure this result, surprise visits were paid to relief centres and tickets given to people who were found to be in rags. Possession of a ticket entitled the holder to the gift of a piece of cloth suited to his or her wants. There is no reason to suppose that any misuse of the charity money has taken place under this head of relief. In fact, speaking generally, there were more people who needed to be clothed than clothes to give them. This has been the experience of most of those who were in charge of this work. As would appear from the district reports, this mode of relief was appreciated the most and it evoked the liveliest gratitude. As regards that most important branch of the operations, namely, gifts to agriculturists, it was administered through or in close co-operation with the officers who distributed *tacavi* from State funds. The staff consisted of Assistant and Extra-Assistant Commissioners, Munsiffs and Tahsildars and Famine Charge Officers, aided by malguzars and other non-official volunteers, all acting under the control and direction of the Deputy Commissioner. The agency employed was thus one well-fitted for the work. Most of the distributing officers were trained Revenue Officers, and a considerable number of them had a more or less intimate knowledge of the people among whom they were to work. Moreover, the staff included many who had done similar work during the last famine. The principle of selection was that only those were helped who were unable to take advantage of *tacavi* loans owing to their inability to give adequate security, or whose credit with their ordinary creditors was so low as to preclude them from getting any help from them. The usual rule was to make money grants, leaving the recipients to obtain seed for themselves. Owing to depletion of local stocks, seed, specially rice seed, had to be imported from outside. To stimulate private enterprise and make it worth its while to cope with the emergency by importing a quantity sufficient to meet the demand, information as to the amount of aid that would be given to cultivators to buy seed was widely circulated among local traders. A system of "pay-order" was introduced which, while it facilitated the payment of the grants, also helped to circulate information as to the requirements of the people. As soon as a cultivator was selected and the amount he was to receive settled, he was given a non-transferable "pay-order" entitling him to receive the amount of his grant on presenting the "order" to the distributing officer of the locality on a date endorsed on the order. This date was fixed with reference to agricultural requirements, neither too early so as to give the recipient the opportunity to spend the money before the sowing time, nor too late so as to cause delay in procuring seed. "Pay-orders" were also permitted to be cashed at a Treasury. Those residing near the head-quarters of a district or a tahsil availed themselves of this privilege; but the great majority received their grants at the hands of the distributing officers, who were thus enabled to satisfy themselves by local enquiries, when called for, that the relief was being given to the right person. Another circumstance which helped to make the distribution a success was that by the first week of April, the Committee had received an assurance that the Provinces would get at least 12 lakhs of kharif sowings. This enabled selection of deserving tenants to be made in advance, and when the money actually came, distribution at once began. The belated monsoon further helped to complete the distribution in right time. There was no need this time to make any large grant for the support of the recipient and his family between sowing and harvesting. The liberal grant of village relief by Government during the rains in return for useful work done in the villages, which included weeding of fields, obviated this necessity. As in the case of seed, so in the case of bullocks, money grant was the rule. The Raipur Committee, however, judiciously took advantage of the sale of cattle at nominal prices at the early stage of the famine and purchased a goodly number, which were afterwards distributed.

Agency for distribution.

Relief to agriculturists.

18. It was a divine mission which the Fund undertook to carry out,—to heal the bruised and help the broken-hearted. Its kindly hand has lifted up from the depths of deepest destitution thousands, sons and daughters of misery, over whose future famine had cast its darkest shadow. Every rupee subscribed has carried its blessing with it to some poor and helpless sufferer. A mere enumeration of the numbers relieved will give but an inadequate idea of the incalculable good that has been done. For the hope that has been infused into the hearts of the people, for the opportunity they now have to build up once more the fabric of their prosperity, they are no less indebted to this noble Charity Fund than to the help they have received from the State Fund. And if they have not been loud in proclaiming their gratitude at this splendid exhibition of charity and of self-sacrifice and devotion in the sacred cause of humanity on the part of their rulers, none the less the moral effect of all that has been done for them in drawing closer together the tie that binds them to their rulers must make for good government in its truest, highest sense.

The good the Fund has done.

19. I conclude this report with the following extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Provincial Committee held on the 12th December 1900 :—

Conclusion.

(*a*) That the Central Committee be requested to convey the grateful thanks of this Committee to the subscribers and organizers of the Fund in India and in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the British Empire and elsewhere for their most generous response to the appeal for aid on behalf of the sufferers from the famine.

(*b*) That the Committee hereby place on record their sense of grateful appreciation of the liberal and opportune grants made from time to time by the Central Committee, and beg to convey to them their warmest thanks for the same.

(*c*) That the Committee beg to offer their respectful acknowledgment to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner for the sympathetic support they have always received from him in carrying out the operations of the Fund.

(*d*) That the best thanks of the Committee be conveyed to the Deputy Commissioners, their assistants and relief officers, who under all the difficulties of season and climate, and in the midst of their own heavy duties in connection with Government relief, have freely and gladly given their valuable services to this work of charity and have by their active aid made it a success.

(*e*) That the best thanks of the Committee be conveyed to the working member of the District Committee and above all to their Honorary Secretaries. Their strain of labour and anxiety to see that the money so generously given be spent with care and judgment has been great, and they have spared no pains successfully to discharge their self-imposed and arduous duties.

(*f*) That the Committee hereby place on record their sense of deep regret at the death of the Right Reverend Bishop Pelvat,—a mournful fatality which has robbed them of the services of a valued and respected colleague, whose exertions in relieving distress both during the past and the present famine were great.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE, *Honorary Secretary,*
Central Provinces Branch.

NAGPUR :
The 12th December 1901.

Final Report of the Central Provinces Provincial Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900.

This report brings up the operations of the Central Provinces Branch up to end of 28th February 1901. In the case of the following committees the figures are final, as all their operations have come to a close:—Saugor, Damoh, Jubbulpore, Mandla, Seoni, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Nimar, Betul, Chhindwara, Nagpur, Raipur, Bilaspur and Sambalpur.

Owing to the indifferent outturn of the rabi of 1901, relief from the Charity Fund is still being given in the districts of Wardha, Chanda, Bhandara and Balaghat. In their case the accounts cover the following periods:—

Wardha up to 15th April 1901.
Chanda up to 28th February 1901.
Bhandara up to 15th March 1901.
Balaghat up to 31st March 1901.

The accounts from the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States have been received only up to the end of January 1901. Advances to relief officers in these States aggregating ₹2,738-15-0 have still to be adjusted. This is included in their closing balance of ₹9,180-3-1. The Political Agent has written to say that relief operations cannot yet be closed in the States.

2. The total receipts have been ₹30,82,489-8-10, the details being as follows:—

	₹	a.	p.
Grants from the Central Committee, including a special grant of ₹1,50,000 for the Feudatories.	28,12,520	0	0
Local subscriptions	2,66,830	8	3
Other receipts	3,139	0	7
Total	30,82,489	8	10

3. The details of the subscriptions realized in the province are as follows:—

Name of the realizing Committee.	Amount realized.			Percentage of realization to the total provincial realization.
	₹	a.	p.	
Executive Committee, Central Provinces	47,943	11	0	17·9
District Committee, Saugor	5,993	12	0	2·2
Ditto Damoh	2,011	8	0	·8
Ditto Jubbulpore	15,169	10	0	5·7
Ditto Mandla	844	0	0	·3
Ditto Seoni	*Nil.*			*Nil.*
Ditto Narsinghpur	1,523	6	8	·5
Ditto Hoshangabad	9,015	9	0	3·4
Ditto Nimar	5,753	13	3	2·2
Ditto Betul	7,663	9	9	2·8
Ditto Chhindwara	8,468	0	4	3·2
Ditto Wardha	41,518	8	0	15·6
Ditto Nagpur	6,524	6	6	2·4
Ditto Chanda	71,806	11	11	26·9
Ditto Bhandara	8,035	3	4	3·0
Ditto Balaghat	7,228	14	9	2·7
Ditto Raipur	5,757	8	0	2·3
Ditto Bilaspur	11,802	11	3	4·4
Ditto Sambalpur	3,461	11	3	1·3
Total	2,60,522	11	0	97·6
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	6,307	13	3	2·4
GRAND TOTAL	2,66,830	8	3	100·0

It will be observed that Chanda heads the list, accounting for a little over a quarter of the whole sum realized. Of the District Committees, Wardha comes next. Seoni decided to utilize its local subscriptions on objects which do not come within the scope of the prescribed objects of the Fund. The sum raised in this district (₹5,399) has therefore been excluded from our accounts.

4. The fund at the disposal of the Executive Committee consisted of grants aggregating ₹28,12,520-0-0 from the Central Committee and of ₹47,043-11-0 collected locally, making a total of ₹28,60 463-11-0.

The following allotments were made out of this sum :—

District.	Amount of grant. ₹
Saugor	1,73,000
Damoh	81,000
Jubbulpore	1,27,000
Mandla	65,500
Seoni	1,14,000
Total of Jubbulpore Division	5,60,500
Narsinghpur	45,000
Hoshangabad	2,14,000
Nimar	94,000
Betul	1,77,500
Chhindwara	1,26,500
Total of Nerbudda Division	6,57,000
Wardha	92,000
Nagpur	1,17,000
Chanda	1,52,000
Bhandara	1,93,500
Balaghat	1,32,500
Total of Nagpur Division	6,87,000
Raipur	4,64,000
Bilaspur	2,95,000
Sambalpur	32,000
Total of Chhattisgarh Division	7,91,000
TOTAL	26,95,500
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	1,60,000
GRAND TOTAL	28,55,500

Besides the above grants, the Executive Committee administered relief directly under the first three objects to some extent. The cost of this relief has been ₹3,767.

5. In the following table is compared the proportion borne by each district grant to the total grant for all the 18 districts. Similar proportion for *tacavi* advances by Government and the proportion borne by the maximum number on State relief in each district to the Provincial total during the rains, when distress was at its height, are also given in juxta-position :—

District.	Percentage of grant as compared with the total grant.	Percentage of *tacavi* advances as compared with the Provincial total.	Percentage of people on relief as compared with the Provincial total.
Saugor	6	3	3
Damoh	3	2	2
Jubbulpore	4	3	2
Mandla	2	2	2
Carried over	15	10	9

District.	Percentage of grant as compared with the total grant.	Percentage of *tacavi* advances as compared with the Provincial total.	Percentage of people on relief as compared with the Provincial total.
Brought forward .	15	10	9
Seoni	4	3	2
Narsinghpur	2	2	3
Hoshangabad	8	3	5
Nimar	4	3	4
Betul	7	3	6
Chhindwara	5	2	3
Wardha	4	5	4
Nagpur	4	4	4
Chanda	6	9	9
Bhandara	7	11	6
Balaghat	5	8	5
Raipur	17	21	30
Bilaspur	11	13	9
Sambalpur	1	3	4
TOTAL .	100	100	100·3

The proportion of grants made to the districts in the Jubbulpore and Nerbadda Divisions was somewhat in excess of the proportion of population on relief in those districts during the height of the famine. But although their crop outturns had not on the whole been so universally bad as in the Nagpur Province and in the Chhattisgarh, yet their past history had been most unfavourable, and in apportioning the grants this circumstance was taken into consideration.

6. The expenditure has been as follows:—

		R	a.	p.
Under Object	I	2,42,817	10	0
„	II	3,098	14	2
„	III	91,162	6	10
„	IV	26,86,756	1	1
Miscellaneous—				
(*a*) Office expenditure		4,954	5	5
(*b*) Other expenditure		9,137	8	10
TOTAL .		30,37,926	14	4

The balance in hand is R44,562-10-6, the details being as under:—

	R	a.	p.
With Provincial Executive Committee (by transfer from District Committees)	21,480	4	1
With District Committees	13,902	3	4
With Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories (this includes unadjusted advances of R2,738-15-0).	9,180	3	1
TOTAL .	44,562	10	6

The total of expenditure and balance in hand comes to R30,82,489-8-10, which equals the total receipts.

7. The expenditure on relief is R30,23,835, which is 99·53 per cent. of the total expenditure. The office expenditure, under which is included postal and telegraphic charges, is ·16 per cent. of the total expenditure, or a little less than a third of a pie in the rupee. The heading (*b*) under "Miscellaneous" mostly represents expenses incurred in railway freight, cartage and cooly hire. Of the total amount spent on actual relief (R30,23,835), Object IV accounts for R26,86,756, or 88·8 per cent.

8. In the following table is shown the percentage borne by expenditure on relief to the total expenditure in the case of each district :—

District.	Percentage.
Saugor	99·50
Damoh	99·52
Jubbulpore	99·94
Mandla	99·34
Seoni	99·83
Narsingpur	99·53
Hoshangabad	99·81
Nimar	98·98
Betul	99·63
Chhinddwara	99·09
Wardha	99·16
Nagpur	99·87
Chanda	99·49
Bhandara	99·54
Balaghat	99·93
Raipur	99·34
Bilaspur	99·82
Sambalpur	99·87

9. In the following table is shown the percentage borne by expenditure under Object IV to the total sum spent on relief in the case of each district :—

District.	Percentage.
Saugor	88·1
Damoh	88·8
Jubbulpore	95·1
Mandla	89·7
Seoni	90·98
Narsinghpur	89·5
Hoshangabad	90·7
Nimar	81·94
Betul	88·5
Chhindwara	76·6
Wardha	77·7
Nagpur	93·2
Chanda	83·7
Bhandara	90·3
Balaghat	92·4
Raipur	89·3
Bilaspur	96·1
Sambalpur	94·1

Chhindwara and Wardha spent a comparatively larger portion of their receipts on the first three objects. The percentages of their expenditure under Object IV are thus the lowest. Wardha spent the largest amount under Object III. The Wardha Committee had as many as 11 cheap grain shops.

10. The number of persons relieved under each object is given below :—

Object I—	
(*a*) By gift of clothes or blankets	293,918
(*b*) By addition of extra food or medical comforts	34,024
(*c*) By addition to Government dole	1,198
(*d*) Other forms of relief	3,175
TOTAL	332,315
Object II—	
(*a*) By subsidies to private orphanages	182
(*b*) By gift of clothes or addition of extra food	3,137
TOTAL	3,319
Object III—	
(*a*) By gift of clothes or blankets	43,706
(*b*) By money or grain dole	13,999
(*c*) By means of cheap grain shop	56,784
(*d*) By providing work in their trade to respectable persons.	2,182
TOTAL	116,671

Object IV—

(*a*) By gift of seed-grain, plough-bullocks and implements of husbandry, or cash to buy them, to agriculturists	382,498
(*b*) By helping artizans	10,509
(*c*) By valedictory doles to persons in receipt of State relief on close of such relief	3,185
TOTAL	396,192

11. Gifts of clothing and blankets under Object I have cost Rs. 2,21,663, thus giving an incidence of Re. 0-12-8 for each individual relieved. The following table shows the district incidence under this sub-division of Object I :—

		Incidence. ℞ *a.* *p.*
Executive Committee, Central Provinces		0 7 3
District Committee, Saugor		0 13 8
Ditto	Damoh	0 8 8
Ditto	Jubbulpore	0 11 11
Ditto	Mandla	0 13 7
Ditto	Seoni	0 13 11
Ditto	Narsinghpur	1 0 1
Ditto	Hoshangabad	0 12 11
Ditto	Nimar	0 9 1
Ditto	Betul	0 12 0
Ditto	Chhindwara	0 12 9
Ditto	Wardha	0 8 0
Ditto	Nagpur	0 12 8
Ditto	Chanda	0 11 5
Ditto	Bhandara	0 8 3
Ditto	Balaghat	0 9 11
Ditto	Raipur	1 4 6
Ditto	Bilaspur	*Nil.*
Ditto	Sambalpur	0 8 0
Chhattisgarh Feudatories		0 8 9
Average for the Province		0 12 8

It will be observed that the incidence is the lowest in the case of the Executive Committee, and highest in the case of the District Committee, Raipur.

12. The loss resulting from the sale of food-grains through the agency of cheap grain shops comes to Rs. 21,571; and distributed over the number of persons who have benefited by their operations, the incidence is Rs. 0-6-9 per each individual relieved. The district incidence under this head is shown below :—

District.	Incidence. ℞ *a.* *p.*
Saugor	0 3 4
Jubbulpore	0 3 7
Seoni	0 13 4
Chhindwara	2 4 10
Wardha	1 8 0
Nagpur	1 6 7
Chanda	0 1 9

The Chanda Committee managed most economically of all, their incidence being the lowest.

13. Under Object IV 382,498 agriculturists have been relieved at a cost of Rs. 26,65,398. Thus the incidence is Rs. 6-15-5 per each individual cultivator relieved. The incidence for the districts is given below :—

District.	Incidence. ℞ *a.* *p.*
Saugor	5 9 10
Damoh	5 12 11
Jubbulpore	10 6 10
Mandla	4 1 10

District.	Incidence. R	a.	p.
Seoni	9	7	6
Narsinghpur	4	2	2
Hoshangabad	9	11	10
Nimar	7	14	8
Betul	9	2	2
Chhindwara	7	15	7
Wardha	12	1	2
Nagpur	12	0	10
Chanda	10	11	5
Bhandara	9	6	1
Balaghat	7	6	3
Raipur	6	12	4
Bilaspur	7	7	1
Sambalpur	3	0	0
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	2	3	4
	6	15	5

The Sambalpur Committee gave on an average only Rs. 3 per each cultivator, whereas the Nagpur and Wardha Committees gave as much as Rs. 12.

14. All the districts have not been able to give the total area sown with the aid given from the Charity Fund. The approximate area in the case of kharif has been given by most of the committees. In the following table is compared the total kharif area sown in 1900 with the area sown with the help from the Charity Fund.

District.	Total kharif area sown.	Approximate area sown with the help from the Charity Fund.	Percentage borne by latter to former.
	Acres.	Acres.	
Saugor	420,126	80,000	19·0
Damoh	Not given.	9,064	...
Jubbulpore	530,650	40,000	7·5
Mandla	435,800	57,000	13·0
Seoni	Not given.	17,000	...
Narsinghpur	329,393	55,000	16·7
Hoshangabad	Not given.	88,223	...
Nimar	Not given in the report.		...
Betul	382,673	55,000	14·3
Chhindwara	588,157	19,000	3·2
Wardha	818,575	140,000	17·1
Nagpur	874,866	75,000	8·1
Chanda	Not given in the report.		...
Bhandara	Not given.	20,100	...
Balaghat	288,095	25,000	8·7
Raipur	1,872,559	100,000	5·3
Bilaspur	1,165,732	168,662	14·5
Sambalpur	No report received.		...

15. At a meeting held this morning the Executive Committee decided to utilise the unspent provincial balance in making the following grants :—

To whom made.	Amount of the grant.	Purpose to which the grant is to be applied.
	R	
Seoni	700	For support of a local Mission Orphanage.
Wardha	5,000	For relief of broken-down agriculturists during the next kharif season.
Chanda	5,489	For relief under the four prescribed objects according to the discretion of the Committee.
Bhandara	1,128	Ditto, ditto,
Balaghat	7,855	Ditto, ditto.

To whom made.	Amount of the grant.	Purpose to which the grant is to be applied.
	₹	
Raipur	3,219	For supporting lepers.
Sambalpur . . .	300	To be paid to a local mission body to meet the travelling charges of some orphans taken under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner from a Government poor-house in Sambalpur to Balasore in Bengal.
Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee	500	For supplying clothes to orphans in charge of various mission bodies in Nagpur.
Local Government . .	10,000	For support of orphans, including orphans in charge of mission bodies throughout the Province.
TOTAL .	34,191	

The Political agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, was further authorised to utilise his unspent balance in helping broken-down agriculturists in the States during the coming agricultural year. After meeting the above charges there would be left in our hands a sum of Rs. 1,191. Anything that remains unspent out of this sum at the close of all operations will be forwarded in due course to the Central Executive Committee.

16. The prescribed forms and statements are annexed.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE,
Honorary Secretary.

NAGPUR;
The 30th April 1901.

P. S.—Since the above report was put in type, the accounts of the Feudatories up to the end of March 1901 have been received. They stand as follows:

	₹	a.	p.
Receipts—			
1. Grant from the Provincial Committee . .	1,60,000	0	0
2. Local subscriptions	6,324	13	3
3. Other receipts	330	0	0
TOTAL .	1,66,654	13	3
Expenditure—			
1. Under Object I	13,846	12	10
2. Do. II	684	8	9
3. Do. III	1,341	12	9
4. Do. IV	1,14,391	3	8
5. Miscellaneous—			
(*a*) Office expenditure	...		
(*b*) Other expenditure	297	11	0
6. Unadjusted advances	1,625	11	3
7. Closing balance	4,467	1	0
TOTAL .	1,66,654	13	3

The receipts from local subscriptions are more by Rs. 17-0-0 than the figure given in the body of the report. The expenditure under Object I is more by Rs. 674-7-1, that under Object II by Rs. 6-15-9, and that under Object IV by Rs. 2,423-0-0. The unadjusted advance now is Rs. 1,625-11-3 as against Rs. 2,738-15-0 on 31st January, and the closing balance is Rs. 4,467-1-0 as against Rs. 6,441-4-1 on 31st January. The Executive Committee's resolution authorising the Political Agent to spend his balance in helping broken-down cultivators during the approaching kharif season must, under the circumstances, be held to have reference to the balance on the 31st March 1901. The above revised figures do not involve any substantial alteration in the percentages given in the report.

BIPIN KRISHNA BOSE,
Honorary Secretary.

NAGPUR;
The 25th April 1901.

FORM A.

Cash Account from the beginning of the operations to the end of February 1901.

Receipts.	Amount.	Expenditure.	Amount.
	₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
1. Remittances from the Central Committee—		1. Under Object I	2,42,817 10 0
(*a*) From General Fund	28,11,000 0 0	2. „ „ II	3,098 14 2
(*b*) Ear-marked subscriptions for the Provinces . .	1,520 0 0	3. „ „ III	91,162 6 10
2. Local subscriptions	2,66,830 8 3	4. „ „ IV	26,86,756 1 1
3. Other receipts	3,139 0 7	5. Miscellaneous—	
		(*a*) Office expenditure . . .	4,954 5 5
		(*b*) Other expenditure . . .	9,137 8 10
		6. Closing Balance—	
		(*a*) With Provincial Committee . .	21,480 4 1
		(*b*) „ District Committees . .	13,902 3 4
		(*c*) „ Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories.	9,180 3 1
TOTAL .	30,82,489 8 10	TOTAL .	30,82,489 8 10

The details of Receipts are given in Form B.

The details of Expenditure are given in Form C

FORM B.

Statement showing the details of Receipts.

Name of Committee.	Local subscriptions.	Other receipts.
	R a. p.	*R a. p.*
Executive Committee, Central Provinces .	47,943 11 0	0 5 0
District Committee, Saugor	5,993 12 0	.....
Ditto Damoh	2,011 8 0	0 12 0
Ditto Jubbulpore . . .	15,169 10 0	22 5 6
Ditto Mandla	844 0 0	64 2 0
Ditto Seoni	.....	3 6 9
Ditto Narsinghpur . . .	1,523 6 8	16 13 7
Ditto Hoshangabad . . .	9,015 9 0	11 4 9
Ditto Nimar	5,753 13 3	1,492 9 9
Ditto Betul	7,663 9 9	21 12 6
Ditto Chhindwara . . .	8,468 0 4	3 1 9
Ditto Wardha	41,518 8 0	.....
Ditto Nagpur	6,524 6 6	29 9 0
Ditto Chanda	71,806 11 11	376 5 2
Ditto Bhandara . . .	8,035 3 4	50 5 4
Ditto Balaghat . . .	7,228 14 9	102 7 0
Ditto Raipur	5,757 8 0	333 7 3
Ditto Bilaspur	11,802 11 3	21 12 0
Ditto Sambalpur . . .	3,461 11 3	258 9 3
TOTAL .	2,60,522 11 0	2,809 0 7
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	6,307 13 3	330 0 0
GRAND TOTAL .	2,66,830 8 3	3,139 0 7

FORM C.

Statement showing the details of Expenditure.

Name of Committee.	Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.	Miscellaneous. (a) Office expenditure.	Miscellaneous. (b) Other expenditure.	Closing Balance.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Executve Committee, Central Provinces.	1,835 4 3	1,000 0 0	932 0 0	.....	688 9 7	749 12 9	21,480 4 1
Distric Committee, Saugor	5,871 3 0	.....	15,417 5 10	1,56,770 0 0	209 0 11	672 12 7	.....
Ditto Damoh	6,815 0 0	.....	2,484 0 0	73,312 10 0	101 0 0	299 10 0	.....
Ditto Jubbulpore	5,161 0 0	.....	1,783 12 1	1,32,221 0 0	.....	86 4 0	.....
Ditto Mandla	4,000 13 0	.....	4,738 0 0	56,269 0 0	158 4 3	144 3 5	63 5 0
Ditto Seoni	8,429 8 10	.....	1,773 15 8	1,02,912 0 0	84 9 0	102 5 7	700 15 8
Ditto Narsinghpur	4,337 8 0	.....	536 4 0	41,450 0 0	.....	216 8 3	.....
Ditto Hoshangabad	12,610 11 3	100 0 0	8,593 0 0	1,98,846 3 0	374 4 6	37 9 0	.....
Ditto Nimar	15,724 6 9	.....	1,623 4 3	78,659 5 6	310 8 1	683 6 3	.....
Ditto Betul	20,389 14 0	.....	.....	1,56,264 15 11	547 4 2	93 11 9	.....
Ditto Chhindwara	29,524 8 6	434 11 2	1,387 2 4	1,02,262 14 0	137 0 0	1,082 8 8	.....
Ditto Wardha	322 12 0	82 13 0	27,817 9 8	97,786 1 2	306 9 1	757 8 9	6,445 2 4
Ditto Nagpur	7,180 6 0	.....	1,182 10 9	1,14,512 12 0	100 9 2	49 4 5	.....
Ditto Chanda	33,215 15 9	80 0 0	2,299 14 5	1,82,987 1 4	471 2 7	639 4 9	4,489 10 3
Ditto Bhandara	12,931 14 3	590 1 0	5,942 8 1	1,80,584 0 0	508 11 3	399 11 7	628 10 6
Ditto Balaghat	10,601 11 0	.....	.....	1,27,787 1 0	87 8 0	.....	1,355 1 9
Ditto Raipur	48,640 11 8	50 0 0	1,213 0 0	4,16,858 13 6	312 0 6	2,796 15 9	219 5 10
Ditto Bilaspur	.....	.....	12,096 3 0	2,91,804 0 0	522 13 4	27 1 4	.....
Ditto Sambalpur	2,052 0 0	83 12 0	.....	33,500 0 0	34 7 0	1 3 0	.....
Total	2,29,645 4 3	2,421 5 2	89,820 10 1	25,44,787 13 5	4,954 5 5	8,839 13 10	35,382 7 5
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	13,172 5 9	677 9 0	1,341 12 9	1,41,968 3 8	.....	297 11 0	9,180 3 1
Grand Total	2,42,817 10 0	3,098 14 2	91,162 6 10	26,86,756 1 1	4,954 5 5	9,137 8 10	44,562 10 6

Statement showing the number of persons relieved up to the end of February 1901 under the various heads.

OBJECT I.

Name of Committee.	(a) By gifts of Clothing or Blanket.		(b) By addition of Extra Food or Medical Comforts.		(c) By addition to Government dole.		(d) Other forms of Relief.		(e) Total under Object I.	
	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.
		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
Executive Committee, Central Provinces.	3,004	1,440 4 3	200	83 0 0	35	57 0 0	87	255 0 0	3,326	1,835 4 3
District Committee, Saugor	6,859	5,871 3 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,859	5,871 3 0
Ditto Damoh	12,000	6,515 0 0	...	...	...	...	275	300 0 0	12,275	6,815 0 0
Ditto Jubbulpore	6,896	5,161 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,896	5,161 0 0
Ditto Mandla	4,680	3,980 13 0	...	20 0 0	...	...	...	...	4,680	4,000 13 0
Ditto Seoni	9,525	8,316 10 0	863	107 14 10	...	...	8	5 0 0	10,396	8,429 8 10
Ditto Narsinghpur	4,103	4,137 8 0	1,219	200 0 0	...	...	...	...	5,322	4,337 8 0
Ditto Hoshangabad	12,882	10,421 8 0	2,189	2,189 3 3	...	...	...	...	15,071	12,610 11 3
Ditto Nimar	27,047	15,424 6 9	...	300 0 0	...	...	...	...	27,047	15,724 6 9
Ditto Betul	27,196	20,389 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,196	20,389 14 0
Ditto Chhindwara	35,014	27,966 9 6	3,833	1,257 15 0	...	...	136	300 0 0	38,983	29,524 8 6
Ditto Wardha	592	297 12 0	164	25 0 0	...	...	...	...	756	322 12 0
Ditto Nagpur	9,032	7,180 6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,032	7,180 6 0
Ditto Chanda	46,600	33,215 15 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,600	33,215 15 9
Ditto Bhandara	25,029	12,931 14 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,029	12,931 14 3
Ditto Balaghat	16,412	10,218 15 0	4,870	376 12 0	...	...	193	6 0 0	21,475	10,601 11 0
Ditto Raipur	30,814	39,458 14 5	13,853	9,181 13 3	...	...	...	...	44,667	48,640 11 8
Ditto Bilaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
Ditto Sambalpur	4,104	2,052 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,104	2,052 0 0
Total	281,789	214,986 9 11	27,191	13,741 10 4	35	57 0 0	699	866 0 0	309,714	2,29,645 4 3
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	12,129	6,682 10 9	6,833	3,219 2 7	1,163	1,372 3 2	2,476	1,907 5 3	22,601	13,172 5 9
Grand Total	293,918	221,663 4 7	34,024	16,951 12 11	1,198	1,429 3 2	3,175	2,773 5 3	332,315	2,42,817 10 0

OBJECT II.

Name of Committee.	(a) By subsidies to Private Orphanages.		(b) By addition of extra food or Medical Comforts.		Total under Object II.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Cost.	No. of orphans.	Cost.
		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
Executive Committee, Central Provinces	...	...	983	1,000 0 0	983	1,000 0 0
District Committee, Hoshangabad	...	...	120	100 0 0	120	100 0 0
Ditto Chhindwara	...	...	178	434 11 2	178	434 11 2
Ditto Wardha	...	...	126	82 13 0	126	82 13 0
Ditto Chanda	...	...	80	80 0 0	80	80 0 0
Ditto Bhandara	...	...	804	590 1 0	804	590 1 0
Ditto Raipur	...	...	3	50 0 0	3	50 0 0
Ditto Sambalpur	9	83 12 0	...	...	9	83 12 0
Total	9	83 12 0	2,294	2,337 9 2	2,303	2,421 5 2
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	173	156 8 0	843	521 1 0	1,016	677 9 0
Grand Total	182	240 4 0	3,137	2,858 10 2	3,319	3,098 14 2

OBJECT III.

Name of Committee.	(a) By gifts of clothing or blanket.		(b) By money or grain dole.		(c) By means of cheap Grain Shops.		(d) By providing work.		Total under Object III.	
	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No. of persons.	Cost.
		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
Executive Committee, Central Provinces.	536	585 0 0	278	347 0 0	...	...	...	...	814	932 0 0
District Committee, Saugor	6,297	7,717 5 0	3,244	3,720 0 0	18,864	3,980 0 10	...	...	28,405	15,417 5 10
Ditto Damoh	...	...	927	2,484 0 0	...	...	...	...	927	2,484 0 0
Ditto Jubbulpore	...	...	...	...	7,842	1,783 12 1	...	...	7,842	1,783 12 1
Ditto Mandla	...	...	784	1,568 0 0	...	...	330	3,170 0 0	1,114	4,738 0 0
Ditto Seoni	...	...	533	904 5 0	1,043	869 10 8	615	*Nil.*	2,191	1,773 15 8
Ditto Narsinghpur	...	...	187	536 4 0	...	...	...	...	187	536 4 0
Ditto Hoshangabad	...	...	3,992	8,593 0 0	...	...	...	...	3,992	8,593 0 0
Ditto Nimar	...	...	152	1,623 4 3	...	...	...	...	152	1,623 4 3
Ditto Betul	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
Ditto Chhindwara	...	...	...	...	418	963 5 10	219	423 12 6	637	1,387 3 4
Ditto Wardha	6,779	13,164 11 2	2,034	4,161 2 3	6,994	10,491 12 3	...	...	15,807	27,817 9 8
Ditto Nagpur	...	...	...	...	842	1,182 10 9	...	...	842	1,182 10 9
Ditto Chanda	...	...	...	...	20,781	2,299 14 5	...	...	20,781	2,299 14 5
Ditto Bhandara	8,250	4,855 9 7	76	125 14 0	...	...	953	961 0 6	9,279	5,942 8 1
Ditto Balaghat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
Ditto Raipur	197	395 8 0	362	817 8 0	...	...	...	...	559	1,213 0 0
Ditto Bilaspur	20,892	11,096 3 0	685	1,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	21,577	12,096 3 0
Ditto Sambalpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
Total	42,951	37,814 4 9	13,254	25,880 5 6	56,784	21,571 2 10	2,117	4,554 13 0	215,106	89,820 10 1
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	755	276 1 0	745	769 9 3	...	...	65	296 2 6	1,565	1,341 12 9
Grand Total	43,706	38,090 5 9	13,999	26,649 14 9	56,784	21,571 2 10	2,182	4,850 15 6	116,671	91,162 6 10

OBJECT IV.1

Name of Committee.	(a) By gift of Seed, Bullocks and Implements of Husbandry, or Cash to buy them, to Agriculturists.		(b) By helping Artizans.		(c) By valedictory doles at close of State relief.		Total under Object IV.	
	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.
		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
Executive Committee, Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	...	...	*Nil.*	*Nil.*
District Committee, Saugor	17,980	1,56,779 0 0	...	...	...	...	17,980	1,56,770 0 0
Ditto Damoh	12,607	73,262 0 0	52	50 10 0	...	...	12,659	73,312 10 0
Ditto Jubbulpore	12,678	1,32,221 0 0	...	...	...	...	12,678	1,32,221 0 0
Ditto Mandla	13,671	56,269 0 0	...	...	...	...	13,671	56,269 0 0
Ditto Seoni	10,868	1,02,912 0 0	...	...	...	...	10,868	1,02,912 0 0
Ditto Narsinghpur	10,012	41,450 0 0	...	...	...	...	10,012	41,450 0 0
Ditto Hoshangabad	19,751	1,92,419 12 0	...	...	3,135	6,426 7 0	22,886	1,98,846 3 0
Ditto Nimar	9,930	78,659 5 6	...	...	...	...	9,930	78,659 5 6
Ditto Betul	17,104	1,56,264 15 11	...	...	...	...	17,104	1,56,264 15 11
Ditto Chhindwara	12,634	1,00,782 8 0	1,133	1,480 6 0	...	...	13,767	1,02,262 14 0
Ditto Wardha	8,098	97,786, 1 2	...	...	...	...	8,098	97,786 1 2
Ditto Nagpur	9,499	1,14,512 12 0	...	...	...	...	9,499	1,14,512 12 0
Ditto Chanda	17,075	1,82,987 1 4	...	...	...	...	17,075	1,82,987 1 4
Ditto Bhandara	19,183	1,80,584 0 0	...	...	...	...	19,183	1,80,584 0 0
Ditto Balaghat	17,072	1,26,213 0 0	156	1,574 1 0	...	...	17,228	1,27,787 1 0
Ditto Raipur	59,832	4,05,112 3 3	9,143	11,662 10 3	50	84 0 0	69,025	4,10,818 13 6
Ditto Bilaspur	39,193	2,91,804 0 0	...	...	...	...	39,193	2,91,804 0 0
Ditto Sambalpur	11,166	33,500 0 0	...	...	...	...	11,166	33,500 0 0
Total	318,353	25,23,509 11 2	10,484	14,767 11 3	3,185	6,510 7 0	332,022	25,44,787 13 5
Chhattisgarh Feudatories	64,145	1,41,889 3 8	25	79 0 0	...	...	64,170	1,41,968 3 8
Grand Total	382,498	26,65,398 14 10	10,509	14,846 11 3	3,185	6,510 7 0	396,192	26,86,765 1 1

Appendix to the report of the Provincial Executive Committee.

REPORTS BY DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

1.—RAIPUR.

MR. G. D. OSWELL, *Honorary Secretary.*

I do not propose entering here into a detailed account of the causes that have led to the present great famine. It is sufficient to note that in the year preceding the famine of 1897, the rice crop, which is the main staple of agriculture in the district, was more or less of a failure throughout the district, except in the Dhamtari Tahsil, and the rabi fair and even in parts of the district good; while in the year 1899-1900 the rice crop as well as the rabi crop failed almost, if not entirely, throughout the whole district, the Dhamtari Tahsil, which suffered but little in the famine of 1897, feeling the severity of the prevailing distress most acutely. In some of the tahsils, moreover, the harvests have been continuously bad since the famine of 1897: this is especially the case with certain villages in the tahsils of Simga and Drug and in the North-western Zamindaris.

* * * *

No one with an observant eye, and acquainted with the circumstances attending the famine of 1897, can fail being struck with the contrast presented in the state of things prevailing in the late autumn of 1896, and that prevailing in the early autumn of 1899. In the late autumn of 1896, the approach of the grim spectre of famine was heralded by crowds of wanderers, all bearing visible signs of emaciation due to want, and poor-houses had to be hurriedly opened to relieve them; in the early autumn of 1899, the organization for the relief of famine had been already perfected, and at no time during the long months that the famine has already lasted has the spectacle presented itself of wanderers wandering aimlessly about in search of work or relief.

* * * *

After describing the formation of a local committee in November 1899, and its subsequent affiliation to our organization, the report proceeds:—

The recognized heads of charitable relief are four.

The first head practically divides itself into two, *viz.*, Extra-comforts and Clothing.

(i) *Extra Comforts.*—Owing to the liberality of the arrangements made by Government, which has extended even to the provision of Swiss Milk and Mellin's Food for hospitals in their famine camp, the demand on this account has not been large. It must not be forgotten also that owing to relief having been instituted by the Government so promptly and so early, the people on Government relief have remained on the whole throughout in good condition, and there has been none of that physical deterioration apparent, which was so marked a feature in the early days of the famine of 1897, and which then necessitated so large an expenditure in the way of extra food and medical comforts.

* * * *

The special uses to which extra comforts have been put so far has been in the treatment of patients who after medical treatment have recovered from cholera, and who but for this form of relief would have succumbed to exhaustion; many lives have been saved in this way. I can bear personal testimony to the devotion that has been shown by Famine Relief Officers to cases of this kind. I have known of one Relief Officer, a Staff Officer on special famine duty, himself carrying patients suffering from cholera to the hospital and the Executive Engineer of this Division has testified to the devotion shown by many native officers: I quote from a letter of his, "Several subordinate officials have applied to be sent to charges where cholera existed, as they were confident of stamping it out."

* * * *

Extra-comforts have also been given in providing small luxuries for nursing mothers and their infants, but Government has devoted so much care and attention to these that our Committee has not hitherto been called upon to do very much to supplement that aid.

It is in kitchens, where large numbers of children are being fed—the number of children throughout the district at the end of June attending kitchens was over 150,000—that the greatest help can be given in this direction, and demands are now coming in for greater assistance.

* * * *

Cases of special food received from Provincial Committee are being distributed, as they come in, to poor-houses, hospitals and kitchens. I have myself been seeing their use in the small childrens' kitchen at head-quarters, which, in my capacity as Charge Officer of the town of Raipur, comes under my general supervision.

* * * *

(ii) *Clothing and Blankets.*—This form of relief is, perhaps, next to actual food, the most popular and at the same time, I might add, one of the most useful. The experience

gained in 1897 proved that gifts of clothing and blankets, made specially during the rainy and early cold seasons, had a life-saving efficacy. The demands for cloth that reached the Committee up to the setting-in of the rains were chiefly on account of poor people on relief works, in poor-houses, and in hospitals, who had barely a rag to cover them, and only those who know the real innate modesty of the respectable working classes of the country can fully appreciate what that meant to them. The Committee met the demand as far as the limited funds at its disposal under this particular object would allow it; all the amounts collected locally by subscriptions were devoted to this special object, and all officers have united in bearing testimony to the great good that has been effected by it, and the gratitude of those who have received it.

* * * *

The Committee have not, as in 1897, been conducting relief for weavers on behalf of Government, and so have not had large amounts of cloth at their disposal for distribution; but weaver-relief has been carried on in certain centres by Famine Relief Officers on behalf of Government, and the Committee allotted small sums from time to time to some of these officers to enable them to distribute cloth from their stocks locally to those in need, and to send it to other centres, where cloth is not available, also for distribution, thus indirectly benefiting both the weavers and the poor. In other cases small grants of money have been made, and Charge Officers have made their purchases locally, thus keeping the cloth trade from stagnating. Blankets are now being purchased locally in the same way.

* * * *

Having the experience of 1897 before them, and recognizing the importance of an early importation of blankets into the outlying districts in preparation for the cold and damp that is always the early accompaniment of the monsoon, the Committee have taken time by the forelock and have had blankets allotted to Charge Officers throughout the district in considerable quantities.

* * * *

I was myself present when a well-known Missionary lady was distributing cloth, on behalf of the Committee, to a large number of women from the neighbouring village relief-works, who had been carefully selected, and I can testify to the gratitude that was evoked: the day chosen for the distribution was the Queen's Birthday, and they all, as they came up for the cloth, prostrated themselves at the feet of the donor as representing to them the gracious beneficence of their far-off Maharani across the seas.

Personal distribution is the rule with both cloth and blankets.

* * * *

There has not been a great demand for relief under head III, but relief has been and is being given at head-quarters, and at one or two other centres to *parda-nashin* women, and a few respectable men.

The system adopted in Raipur was as follows:—A sub-committee was formed and lists were prepared, with the help of Municipal ward members, of all deserving cases: these were checked by the members of the Committee, and a certain number weeded out: when the lists were quite ready, the Committee were glad to avail themselves of the kind offer of an American Missionary lady, Miss Blackway. This lady, attended by the Secretary of the Municipal Committee, Mr. Deshpande, who is one of the most active members of our Committee, visited each house in turn, and herself personally distributed the gifts of money and clothing to the distressed. The ward members of each ward gave her every assistance.

* * * *

Agriculturists.—The agriculturists that have been helped have been mainly those who have been unable to take advantage of *tacavi* owing to their inability to give sufficient security, or whose credit with their sowcars is so low as to preclude them from getting any help from them except under ruinous conditions. In a few cases *tacavi* advances have been supplemented by gifts from the Charitable Fund. Care has been taken, as was suggested by Mr. Smeaton at the conference held at Nagpur on 3rd April 1900, that it should be taken that no more money has been spent on any individual cultivator than should be just sufficient to enable him to resume his cultivation, and to restore his credit.

* * * *

Relief to agriculturists has been given chiefly under the heads of seed-grain and plough-bullocks.

(1) *Seed-grain.*—Seed-grain has included dhan and maize: the latter to a limited extent only, as compared with the former.

The number of tenants requiring aid from the Fund this year is far in excess of the number helped by our Committee in 1897, and it is gratifying to be able to record that the Provincial Committee has recognized greater needs this year by making us larger grants.

The system of distribution of this relief adopted by our Committee has been based on the rules laid down in Circular No. 12, dated the 24th March 1900, emanating from the Provincial Committee. Complete lists of tenants who would be wholly unable to resume cultivation unless helped by the Charity Fund were prepared early in the year by means of the organization at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, the tenants included in the list being divided into classes according to the urgency of their demand; as a matter of fact the great bulk of the tenants in this district have had to be placed in the first class,

which comprises those most deserving of relief, as the malguzars, who have been very hard hit themselves, have, with very few exceptions, declined to make advances themselves on the poor security offered, and have also declined to hold themselves responsible for the security on loans which Government offered to make through their agency to tenants.

The medium of relief has been money grants throughout almost the whole district, in accordance with the ruling laid down in that circular. An excellent system of pay orders was devised by the Deputy Commissioner, white being the colour chosen for the pay orders for Government *tacavi*, and red for those for charitable grants. These were all distributed in good time by the agency organized by the Deputy Commissioner for the distribution of *tacavi*. When the time for the cashing of these orders came, their holders presented themselves at certain centres arranged with them beforehand, and received the amount of their orders at the hands of Charge and Circle Officers. Owing to the excellence of the organization, there was no confusion and no delay. It was generally understood that there would be sufficient seed-grain in the district to meet all demands; but in order to make assurance doubly sure, the Deputy Commissioner caused wide proclamation to be made at an early stage, and printed notices in the vernacular circulated of the amounts that both Government and the Charitable Fund Committee were allotting for the purchase of seed-grain; the total reaching the very respectable figure of ten lakhs and more; the object being as laid down in the Circular No. 27 of the 10th April 1900, emanating from the Provincial Committee, to "stimulate private enterprise by an assurance that assistance would be given to cultivators to purchase seed at the proper time."

* * * *

I could not help being incidentally struck with the generally bright and healthly look of the great majority of those who attended to get their seed-grain money: it spoke volumes, I thought, for the care they had received while on relief-work in the great famine camps, from which they nearly all had come direct to get their grants. Day after day I used to meet them coming in with small pieces of stick fastened into their turbans, in the clefts of which were stuck their pay orders, white or red as the case might be. If the smiles, which in some cases illumined their usual stolid countenances, can be called a token of gratitude deep down somewhere in their hearts, then certainly some of the recipients evinced their gratitude in a marked degree: others, and these the great majority, took their grants much as a matter of course, and as if such largesse was only what was to be expected from a Sirkar which they all, in their heart of hearts, recognized as just and benevolent.

The experience gained in 1897 of the advantages of a maize crop in the district has led the Committee this year to adopt the advice tendered to the Committee of 1897 to make a large distribution of it. Captain Shewell, one of the Relief Officers, wrote to our Committee in 1897: "The distribution of makai here was most useful, as in August it helped considerably to support tenants while waiting for the ripening of their kharif crops, and in case there should be another serious famine I would recommend a much larger distribution of makai." That other serious famine has come sooner than the writer could have anticipated, but it has again found another Charitable Fund to aid Government to cope with it.

In all our Committee has had nearly 1,600 bags of maize distributed throughout the district, and Charge Officers have received directions, the outcome of experience, how to make the best use of it. It is specially intended that villagers should sow it in the enclosures immediately round their houses: its special advantage is that, if sown early it ripens in August, and produces an excellent food-supply, as well as fodder for cattle. Very little makai, or Indian corn, being available in the open market, the Committee purchased a consignment from Messrs. Ralli Brothers of some 750 bags: this arrived in excellent time, and had all been distributed before the setting-in of the monsoon. With reference to the first allotment an officer writes: "In a great many villages I have seen this maize growing; it germinates well though perhaps not so well as maize of the country; people are extremely pleased with this form of relief, as maize is one of the staple foods of this Zamindari."

* * * *

(2) *Cattle*.—Certain parts of the district have suffered more than others from loss of cattle through disease, a scarcity of water and fodder, and special attention has been paid by the Committee to the wants of these centres as formulated by the Charge Officers. At the conference held at Nagpur early in April special reference was made to this question, and the principles then laid down were that all that the Charitable Fund could hope to be able to do was to give the tenants bullock-power, not a pair of bullocks each, or even one bullock each, and that hiring should as much as possible be resorted to. This was at a time when it was never anticipated that the Charitable Fund would reach the very respectable dimensions that it has since reached: it was further thought, though the matter was left very much to the discretion and local knowledge of the District Committee, that the Committee should only in the last resort buy cattle, and hand them over to the most trustworthy and respectable inhabitants of the village, who would be paid for their keep, and would give them for use to the deserving and needy tenants turn by turn: the ownership in these cattle would however remain with the Committee. Mr. Fox-Strangways, a former Deputy Commissioner of Raipur, who was present at the conference, remarked that "in a district like Raipur, where the ploughing has to be done at and within a particular period, the hiring might be difficult and the arrangements to give bullocks by

turns would in practice be found difficult to carry out." This has been the experience of the Raipur Committee, and after having first issued instructions to Charge Officers on the lines laid down by the Provincial Committee, they have since been compelled, in the light of the advice tendered them almost unanimously by experienced Charge Officers, to give permission for any plough cattle purchased and distributed to be given outright as free gifts to deserving tenants, the selection being made by themselves in consultation with the respectable headmen of the villages. In the great majority of cases money grants have been made to cover the cost of the purchase of a bullock or two and of its upkeep till fodder is abundant. It has only been possible to resort to hiring on a small scale in one or two centres. Certain grants were made from time to time by the Committee for fodder, and arrangements were made, both with the Forest Officer of Raipur and with the Deputy Commissioner of Chanda, for sales of grass from their depôts to Charge Officers applying for it: the Committee provided several Charge Officers with forage supply orders on these depôts.

The remote Zamindaris with the jungles near them were better off in the matter of forage than the more cultivated districts, and Government having opened all the forest reserves to free grazing with permission also to tenants to carry off head-loads, very little distress on this account was apparent; the chief cause of distress was lack of water.

Some of the cattle distributed amongst Charge Officers were purchased for the Committee through the agency of the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Morris, who very kindly volunteered to do this very early in the famine: the system he adopted was to buy up cattle that were being sold at the district pounds. His attention had been early called to the very low price at which valuable cattle were being sold, and the idea occurred to him of buying them for the Committee. In this way some valuable cattle were secured at a very moderate cost: these cattle were kept in charge by the police, an allowance being made them for their keep, until the time came for their distribution. Others were purchased and maintained by the Revd. A. Hagerstein, who also very kindly volunteered to help the Committee in this way.

* * * *

Tenants have been exceedingly grateful for this form of relief, which has often been the one thing needful to crown the gift of charitable seed-grain. In this connection I must mention an incident that fell under my own observation: I found on the village relief works, which I am personally conducting, an old tenant who had not left after the rain had fallen, and on my asking him the reason he replied, "Sahib, I have just lost one of my plough oxen, and have no means of getting my fields ploughed just yet." On ascertaining from him that he had only received his grant for seed, I at once arranged for him to receive a bullock. He then lost no time, but at once set to get his fields ready and after he had done so came and personally thanked me for the timely aid afforded him by the Committee. I mention this incident, as it is a typical case, and shows that, though undemonstrative, the Indian cultivator is possessed of gratitude, when he is given an opportunity of expressing it. One very important sub-head of relief under head IV in 1897 was *khawai*, or subsistence money given to cultivators to keep them in good condition while their seed was in the ground and they were waiting for the harvest: there was not the same demand this year for this form of relief, owing to the very liberal arrangements made by the Government during the rains, whereby kitchens were multiplied to provide food for all dependants of field labourers, and gratuitous relief was largely expanded.

* * * *

One other form of relief to the class of agriculturists, and I have done with this branch of my report—and this is helping cultivators to re-build their houses and homesteads when they return from the great famine camps, and find them either burnt or dilapidated and umbling to ruin.

Our Committee has been able to give a little assistance in this direction, chiefly in the Drug Tahsil.

Artizans.—Under head IV falls also relief to artizans. Work in the famine camps has been given on such liberal conditions to this class: and Government has been relieving many, especially weavers of the higher class, directly at their own homes by making advances to them to enable them to carry on their trade, that there has hitherto been very little demand for aid from our Committee, but with the breaking up of the great famine camp, a demand for aid to this class both at head-quarters and in the outlying districts is now springing up.

Our Committee has been indirectly seconding the efforts of Government by purchasing some of the stocks of cloth returned by the weaver for distribution amongst the poor. It is all important that this class should not be pauperized, and the only way this can be effected is by the system of advances and receiving a *quid pro quo*. The Committee has given some assistance in this direction in the North-west Zamindaris, and is now assisting a few weavers and blanket makers at head-quarters by purchasing their stocks from them at the prevailing market rates. Cloth and blankets are only purchased from time to time as the demand for distribution reaches the Committee, so there is no accumulation of cloth as there was in 1897, when the Committee undertook nearly the whole of the weaver relief of the district, partly on behalf of Government and partly on its own behalf, in order to secure cloth for distribution.

* * * *

Another head appears in our accounts, and that is office and miscellaneous expenditure.

Owing to the voluntary agency employed, only the actual clerical labour being paid for, our expenses under this head are kept at a minimum, and subscribers to the Fund may have the satisfaction of knowing that their money goes, as far as it is humanly possible that it should go, in the direction of relief to sufferers from the famine, and is not diverted towards the up-keep of an expensive establishment.

* * * *

And now it may be asked, What are the feelings that have been evoked, by this splendid exhibition of charity, on the part of those who have been its recipients? I have no hesitation in answering that a strong feeling of gratitude and an assured confidence in the benevolence of their rulers have resulted.

* * * *

To Mr. Ibbetson as organizer, and to Mr. Fraser as administrator, is due the fact patent to all that the lines quoted below from *Punch* are not true of this district:—

Famine, frightful and appalling,
Stalks amidst us on his wing;
In our thousands we are falling
Day by day.
And our bones that cry, beseeching
To be buried, lie there bleaching,
Where the vultures hover, screeching
O'er their prey.

Second Report.

Lepers.—Upon the urgent representation of the Secretary of the Leper Asylum Committe, the Relief Committee has recently allotted a sum of ₹5,000 towards the maintenance of over 100 lepers who have wandered in from outlying parts of districts, and who will have to be provided for for some months to come.

Widows' Refuge.—One other head under which relief has been given under Object I is provision of funds for sheltering widows and deserted women and their childern: refuge for such has been established by missionary agency under the superintendence of Miss Blackmar, of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, where such women are provided for temporarily, pending their return to their homes, and where they have to work in return for food and shelter the Committee provide.

Extra Comforts.—All the cases at the disposal of the Committee containing extra comforts and famine foods have been distributed, and liberal grants of money at the same time have been made in response to call from Famine Charge Officers. A great portion of the maize that was received through the agency of the Revd. G. R. Gilder also came in most usefully for supplementary supplies at kitchens in outlying jungly tracts, where there was a danger of the rice supply giving out.

Object IV.—Except in the case of maize, all grants have been given in money. It is satisfactory to be able to record that in every instance where the soil was suitable, the maize crops were abundant, and gave a food supply that came in very usefully towards the end of August.

This fact, and the liberal way in which kitchens have been kept open by the State, caused the demand for khawai (subsistence money) to be comparatively small, and there has been very trifling expenditure under this head.

* * * *

Grants from the rabi sowings have been made since the publication of the preliminary report, which only gives the Committee's operations up to the middle of July.

Considerable damage having been done to kodon and kutki crops in parts of the district by flood and heavy rain, and some damage also to the standing rice crops by grass-hoppers, the demand for rabi was larger than had been originally anticipated. Owing to liberal allotments by the Provincial Committee our Committee has been able to make grants on account of the rabi sowings of nearly ₹70,000; this includes certain sums which Charge Officers had in hand from the kharif sowings, and which they have been permitted to utilize as grants for rabi.

Annexure A.

Report of CAPTAIN SHEWELL, *Charge Officer.*

Before making an actual report as to the way the money, etc., I have received from the Raipur Charitable Relief Fund has been distributed, I should like to thank the Committee for the liberal way in which they have responded to my appeals, and to state that it is impossible to over-estimate the very great assistance the money, etc., has been to the famine-stricken people of this district.

Last famine I also received liberal grants from the Charitable Relief Fund, and distributed relief to the best of my power, but this year, owing to previous experience, I have perhaps been able to make a better distribution than previously.

The English population in India have, I think, a belief that the native is without gratitude and an extreme fatalist, and though the latter is to a great extent true, the former no one who has been through a famine can believe,

If any of the subscribers could have been present when any of the distribution of clothes, seed, etc., were being made, I am confident they would have felt well repaid for their liberality, by witnessing the extreme gratitude of the recipients.

Clothes.—This gratitude was more openly displayed perhaps during the distributions of clothes to old feeble adults. These people, mostly past work and many of them without relatives, subsist ordinarily on charity, but during a famine all or nearly all private charity is suspended as the charitably inclined are unable to even support themselves.

The delight of these poor old people at receiving new clothes was most touching. They were mostly in the scantiest rags, which they thought would have to suffice during the rest of their lives. The ones with relatives were looked on as useless encumbrances, but when they suddenly were presented with a new clean piece of cloth, their joy was at the same time amusing and yet affecting. Their ideas of the decencies were generally forgotten, so keen were they on at once robing themselves in their new clothes, and they seemed to actually pluck up spirit and think that though the land was in the tight grip of famine still life was worth living.

These liberal grants for clothes served really a double purpose, as I bought all the clothes I required locally from the weavers, thus stimulating their trade and enabling them to keep their looms going and saved them from going on the relief works. I usually gave each man R1-2-0 for each rupees' worth of cloth he brought me, and this slight profit sufficed to provide them with food, and enable them to tide over the worst months.

Maize.—The large consignment of maize I received early in the year was of the very greatest assistance; indeed, without it I hardly know how some of the tenants would have won through.

I distributed the maize only to tenants, about 75 per cent. of the population, early in June: it was mostly sown directly the first rain fell, and in six or eight weeks was ready for cutting, thus providing each tenant with sufficient grain to keep him till his rice or kodo crops were ready. Besides providing grain for the tenants, the stalks and leaves were of great help as fodder for the cattle, which suffered terribly from want of food. The maize stalks, etc., however apparently nourished the cattle well and the tenants were able to get full work from the cattle for "byasi," etc.

In addition to the maize distributed for seed each tenant who was really in urgent need was given a quantity of maize to serve as food during the time previous to the ripening of the maize crops.

This first consignment of maize I received was, I believe, "Roumanian," and I regret to say was not an unqualified success. On good wheat or black soil it did very well, but on lighter soils the ears were extremely small and ripened very slowly. Should there ever again arise the necessity for famine relief (*absit omen*) I would suggest that early arrangements for a plentiful supply of American maize be made.

Later in the year I had some bags of American maize sent me: it was grand seed, but unluckily arrived too late to sow. I therefore served it out to tenants for subsistence, and it was eagerly sought after. I would in passing like to remark on the excellent make of the bags the American seed was in. I used them as warm covering for the poorer people, cutting a hole for the head and a couple of arm holes. I was thus able to provide some 300 extra clothes which were especially useful during the rains. The largest grant I had was for seed, etc., for kharif sowings.

Grant for kharif.—I am unable to put into words the wonderful assistance this was to the poorer tenants. Men who had been with their families just earning a living wage during the hot-weather months, and who were all in debt and so unable to obtain further advances, were by free grants of seeds able to cultivate their fields, which otherwise must have lain fallow, and the tenants would have been forced to become ordinary labourers; but now, thanks to the seed grants and a plentiful harvest, these tenants will be able to pay off their debts and start clear with sufficient food to carry them on till next harvest.

The grants were, comparatively speaking, small to each tenant, varying from R5 to R3 (6*s*. 8*d*. to 4*s*.), yet these were sufficient to give the men a fresh interest and start in life.

Plough-cattle.—In a few cases tenants had lost or been obliged to sell their plough-cattle, so I bought cattle cheap at Rro a pair in June and handed them over to the poorest tenants. These men were all particularly grateful, and several have told me since that the gift has enabled them to keep their holdings and their interest in the land, which had been in their family for years and which would, in cases, have rendered them miserable to give up.

Petty artizans.—As I have already said the great majority of the population on these Zamindaris are tenants, but besides these the petty artizans, small traders, etc., were equally affected by the prevailing famine, firstly, because the prices of all food-grains were enormously enhanced, and secondly, because the people's power of purchase was greatly curtailed.

I was enabled by small gifts to assist this class to support themselves and their families. The people owing to their ordinary occupations were unable to work as labourers on the relief works "so freely opened by Government," and had it not been for the Charitable Relief Fund, would, I fear, have suffered much worse than they actually did.

Employment of Tailors.—The tailors to whom I gave money, I employed in making small coats for the children at the kitchens. I may say the children were very proud of

their coats, and being made up there was no fear of the coats being stolen, which frequently happened if I gave them cloth only.

I had also a grant for extra comforts in the kitchens and this grant perhaps did more visible work as regards saving lives than any of the others.

Extra Comforts.—The children, especially during the rains, suffered greatly from dysentery and diarrhœa, and these complaints were only aggravated by the ordinary kitchen foods of rice and pulse. But owing to the grant I was able to serve out Mellin's, Nestle's, etc., also Condensed Milk, it being in many villages impossible to procure fresh milk. I am also greatly indebted to Messrs. Watson and Company, Bombay, who most generously sent me some eight cases of foods, and as these cases contained many strengthening foods, such as Lemco, Armour Extract Meat, etc., I was, I am certain, able to save many lives, especially in cases of collapse after cholera, which unluckily was bad here from May to August. I was rather amused at receiving a barrel of Huntley and Palmer's "Mixed Desert" biscuits, but they were greatly appreciated by the children in the kitchen and were generally kept for high days and holidays, such as the Queen's Birth-Day, Pretoria day, etc.

Takavi for rabi.—I have lately received a liberal grant for rabi seed (wheat, etc.). The inhabitants as a rule in these districts trust to their rice and kodo crops to provide them with food during the coming year, and to their wheat harvests to pay their rent, to enable them to have slight enjoyments, to pay off their debts, etc. It is therefore very important that the tenants should be able to sow wheat, etc., otherwise they are obliged to part with some of their food supply for rent.

During September we had some violent storms in this district accompanied with heavy rain which in places did damage to the standing crops. These people, who saw a wonderful yield, as the crops have been this year, ruined, were naturally disheartened, but I have been able to make them liberal grants for rabi and thus enable them to face the future with a certain degree of confidence. I also have been able to assist the poorer tenants who had been obliged to eat all their seed wheat from last harvest.

In conclusion I can only on the part of the natives on these Zamindaris express their very warmest thanks to the subscribers who have so very generously assisted them during their great distress, which distress now, I am glad to say, is principally over owing to bumper crops in every village.

Annexure B.

Report of MR. C. A. P. ROGERS, I.C.S., *Charge Officer.*

1. Distress in this charge, though not declaring itself so early as in other parts of the district, reached an extremely acute stage; and in spite of the fact that the number on Government relief amounted to 60 per cent. of the population, it was found impossible to keep the death-rate—even excluding deaths from cholera—at anything near the normal.

2. There are some 300 villages in the charge, and a population of between 60,000 and 70,000. Three-fourths of the area is jungle tract, and this tract is peopled almost entirely by aborigines, mostly Gonds. Cultivation and the collection of forest produce form practically the sole means of subsistence.

3. The first grant from the Charitable Relief Fund was one of R9,000 made for the purpose of seed-grain advances for the winter harvest to the poorest tenants. At the same time I received R23,000 to distribute in loans without interest on the part of Government to tenants who were somewhat better off.

4. I had lists of all the tenants of every village prepared by the village accountants, and I fixed five centres to which I summoned all the tenants who wished for advances. I then went through all the tenants, village by village, making as particular inquiries as were possible as to the condition of each tenant. The value of the holding, the arreas of rent, the complaisance of the village bania, were all factors to be taken into consideration; but the principal standard of wealth was the number of cattle possessed. Generally speaking, the possession of more than two head of cattle excluded a tenant from any sort of advance, while only those who had no cattle at all were considered eligible for charitable relief.

5. I divided all the villages into two classes—those with well-to-do malguzars who I knew ought to be able to give their tenants some assistance, and those whose landlords were in no better position than the tenants themselves. I made as liberal allotments as finances would admit to the latter—first village by village, and then tenant by tenant, while I reserved a somewhat scantier allowance for the former class of villages. I drew up lists of the tenants of the villages with well-to-do malguzars, and fixed sums for each tenant on the same scale as I had allotted advances to the tenants of the poor landlords.

6. I then, in person, distributed the amounts allotted to the tenants of the poorer malguzars and sent away the rest with 'Parwanas' to their several malguzars to give advances to their tenants according to the amounts fixed by me. I fixed further dates on which the tenants were to attend, and inform me of the result of their applications to the malguzars.

7. These proceedings occupied three to four days at each centre, from the first stretch of dawn till 9 or 10 at night, during which time, I, the "Circle Officer," and his subordinates, the village accountants, were all hard at work. The sum to be given to each individual

was fixed by me personally, and all money was distributed by my own hands. This precaution was necessary to insure each tenant being very fairly dealt with, as all who are acquainted with the tortuous ways of the native subordinate official will know.

8. The ignorant peasant does not, however, deserve entire sympathy, even though he is done out of a little of what he ought to get. His own methods are not above reproach. It was the hardest thing in the world to get a true statement of their circumstances from these simple rustics. In one village all the tenants with one accord stated that there was not a single bullock, buffalo or cow in their possession. Being quite sure that this was false, I told them that as they have no means of cultivation, it was of course useless to give them advances for seed, and that therefore I could give them nothing, and I went on to the next village. It was not long before these villagers again came up and then there was not one among them who did not own up to at least a pair of bullocks. I told them that as a punishment for their dishonesty, they would receive nothing, and they accepted the verdict as just.

9. My appeals to the well-to-do malguzars were on the whole successful. Many of them distributed money or grain to their tenants, in my presence of course, in the form of loans with heavy interest. When I failed to get anything out of the malguzar, I distributed the balance I had kept in reserve among the tenants. The final upshot was that quite 90 per cent. of the normal area was sown in my charge.

10. I distributed R2,237 on clothing purchased locally, thus at the same time relieving the few weavers in my charge, and providing a few people (some 25,000) with clothing. The method was to give each weaver an advance, and then to purchase cloths from him at a fixed price. The cloths were then distributed in the Government kitchens.

11. I was unable to attend to this personally, but, as I thought the demand for clothing somewhat excessive, I made a few experiments with a view to ascertaining the real condition of the numbers who seemed to be without rags to cover themselves. I went through a few villages, house by house, just after dark when the inhabitants would all be at home. It was at this time raining heavily. The state of the wretched people was far worse than I had ever realized: standing at the doors of their leaky hovels in my macintosh, I was far drier than the miserable wretches shivering inside.

In a village of about 380 inhabitants I found no less than 70 families without a decent blanket among them. A few cotton rags was the extent of the wardrobe of the best off. I gave one rupee to each family of two to four persons, for which they would be able to buy a blanket among the family; but even this was relief on a far more lavish scale than I could afford for the whole charge.

Annexure C.

Report of MR. T. H. DUNNE, *Charge Officer.*

Seventy-five bags Indian Corn.—These were distributed to 16,870 people. The people were very chary at first of availing themselves of this charity, since they seemed to suspect that the sirkar had some deep motive in offering it. I may state here *en passant* that explain how we would to the people that clothes, blankets, Indian corn, etc., were not being given them by Government, but from the Charitable Fund, yet they saw and recognized in everything—food-grain, clothing and medical attendance, etc.—only the hand of the great 'Sirkar.'

This grain is not much cultivated in the Dhamtari Tahsil and the conservative habits of the people prevented them attempting its culture on anything like a large scale. They confined themselves almost solely to sowing it in their little *baris*, and were so far wise in this that the village cattle would not get at it. The plant needs good fencing for one thing as a protection from the village cattle, and even then is frequently raided, for the cattle look upon it apparently as a particular delicacy. The seed germinated well and the plant gave excellent results and needs further employing, being, as it is, useful for both man and beast.

Blankets.—There were 1,945 blankets received. With them 1,945 people were relieved. The distribution of blankets had to be undertaken with considerable caution. When it was certain that applicants were really fit subjects for relief either in clothes or blankets they were asked as a rule to select one or the other. The woman almost without exception chose sarris in preference to blankets, while the men as a rule chose blankets. In the case of women with newly-born infants it was often necessary to give both a sarri and a blanket, and where a women chose a blanket, decency frequently demanded that she should be given a sarri also. There is no possible doubt that in the administration of this charity and that of clothes we got down to the lowest dregs of the community, and it is a pleasure now that the famine has come to a close to see that large bodies of ragged and emaciated people are conspicuous by their absence.

IV—SAUGOR.

PANDIT KASHINATH RAO, *Honorary Secretary.*

* * * *

The District Committee began its work by appointing Tahsil sub-committees and opening subscription lists. Famine was at that time at its height and the measures adopted by Government to combat it in full swing. The opening of the Charitable Relief Fund at such a juncture was an assistance which could not be too highly valued. It was not at all difficult to set out working-plans, as the objects towards which the Fund was to be devoted were the same as in the famine of 1897, and the experience then gained was still fresh in our minds. Even the majority of the members and the Secretary were the very persons who had taken part in the administration of the fund of 1897. We could therefore very easily dispense with such forms of relief as were found to be superfluous and adhere to those only which proved most useful, and in carrying out relief measures employ such agencies only as proved most efficacious during the last famine.

* * * *

Object I.—It was not found necessary to add to the rations of the inmates of poor-houses as they were well provided for in this respect. The only form of relief adopted under this head was the distribution of clothes to deserving persons on Government relief works, poor-houses, cholera camps, hospitals and kitchens. Cloth, mostly of local manufacture, was purchased, and in this way the local weavers were indirectly much helped.

* * * *

During this month blankets have been supplied to the Tahsildar of Khurai and Rehli for distribution to the inmates of the kitchens. Cloth of the value of over R10,100 has been purchased and sent out for distribution, but the reports from all the distributing officers have not yet been received. More than 10,000 persons have actually been relieved in this form. We could not give cloth to every single person in need of it, but we had at least the satisfaction of knowing the worst cases had been relieved. After the distribution for rabi seed was completed we had some balance left, and with this we have purchased blankets. These will be distributed now. They will be of immense use to the poor during the coming winter.

Object III.—Cloth received from the Provincial Committee, as also some purchased locally, has been distributed in the town and cantonment of Saugor among such persons as were not relieved by Government in any form. There were persons in the town of Saugor who would not go to Government works, as they would have lost their social status by doing so; and for similar considerations some families of the Bundela community in the Khurai and Banda tahsils, who claimed their descent from the old aristocracy of the place, also kept themselves aloof from State relief institutions. Such persons were relieved by payment of monthly money doles. At the commencement of the rainy season, when the distress in the town intensified and all the distressed persons could not be relieved from the Charitable Fund, Government opened village relief for the town, and the Charitable Fund opened a cheap grain shop for such persons as could earn just sufficient to maintain themselves in ordinary times, but were very hard up owing to the abnormal rise in the prices of food-grains.

* * * *

Parda-nashin relief in the town and the cantonment of Saugor was under my direct charge, and the Deputy Commissioner managed the distribution of money doles to the Bundela families in the Banda and Khurai tahsils through the Tahsildars. The amount of the dole varied between R1 and R5 per family. The recipients were mostly widows of respectable classes—Brahmins, Rajputs, Kayasths and Muhammadans. The list also included one darbari and several respectable members of the priestly caste. Selection was made on recommendations of the members of the District Committee, submitted after secret enquiry by the Secretary, and on receipt of the Deputy Commissioner's sanction the names were listed and the amount of the money dole paid at the beginning of each month.

* * * *

The cheap grain shop was opened under the direct supervision of Pandit Ganpat Rao Shrikhande, a member of the District Committee and a retired Extra-Assistant Commissioner. Selection of persons to be relieved was made by Mr. Sundar Lal, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, who gave passes to the persons selected. Passes of the nominal value of 4 annas each were printed, and each person received per month tickets not exceeding 20 in number according to his requirements. He could purchase grain at the shop at the cheap rates fixed by the Committee, *viz.*, wheat and rice at 12 and gram at 14 seers per rupee, on payment of the price in cash and tender of the ticket of equivalent nominal value. Mr. Ganpat Rao purchased grain locally at wholesale rates with the help of Rai Bahadur Lala Nandkishore. The arrangement worked well and benefited a large number of persons. When the cheap grain shop was opened on the 7th July 1900, wheat was selling between 9 and 10, rice between 8 and 9, and gram between 10 and 11 seers per rupee. Juar, maka or other grains were not in the market. When maka and bajra became available at 16 to 17 seers per rupee, it was no longer necessary to keep up the shop and it was accordingly closed on the 2nd of November. Grain to the value of R20,330 was purchased and R393 was spent on establishment and contingencies.

Rupees 16,350 was recovered by the sale-proceeds of the grain. The net loss to the Fund was thus ₹4,373. The total number of persons relieved was 18,864.

Object IV.—This is the most important of all the objects of the Charitable Fund, and under this head the bulk of our Fund has been spent. Distributions were all made by Government officers appointed by the Deputy Commissioner to distribute Charity Fund money and make takavi loans simultaneously. Lists were previously made out by the Circle Officers or Revenue Inspectors, and selections were made on the spot by the distributing officers only. The Patwaris were not allowed to make recommendations. Both the distributions, kharif as well as for rabi sowings, were completed in time to be of real help to the agriculturists, and it is believed that the recipients have not misused the money. The following statement gives the result of the distribution for kharif sowings with the area cropped with kharif in the past year:—

Tahsil.	Number of tenants relieved.	Total amount of money paid.	Area sown with kharif in 1900.	Corresponding areas sown in 1899.	Increase.
	No.	₹	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Saugor	1,731	12,000	136,730	118,349	+18,381
Khurai	5,257	37,810	74,348	67,796	+6,552
Banda	3,004	15,895	80,672	77,912	+2,760
Rehli	934	5,135	128,376	126,779	+1,597
Total	10,926	70,840	420,126	390,836	+29,290

The total kharif area sown this year was 29,290 acres more than in the preceding year. During the famine year this result would never have been achieved if the cultivators were left to themselves. Assisted by our Fund, many cultivators have retained, who would otherwise have lost, their holdings. Out of 420,126 acres sown during the current year the area sown with the aid from the Charity Fund may fairly be put down as 80,000 acres without any exaggeration. The statement further shows that the most afflicted parts of the district, *viz.*, Khurai and Banda Tahsils, in which we distributed larger amounts, have not only been able to keep up the last year's area, but have made some progress, which is in proportion to the money distributed from the Charitable Fund in these tahsils. As regards the rabi, I can only give the number of persons relieved and the amount distributed in each tahsil, and these are as under—

Tahsil.	Number of tenants relieved.	Amount distributed.
	No.	₹
Saugor	2,202	32,930
Khurai	3,060	34,000
Banda	1,319	15,000
Rehli	383	4,000
Total	6,964	85,930

As the grants were made for seed-grains only, and as on an average ₹4 worth of seed-grain is required for one acre, the area of the Rehli land sown with the aid from our Fund can be fairly estimated at 21,000 acres. Thus in all above one lakh of acres of land has been sown with the help received by the tenants from the Charitable Fund. The number of tenants relieved on both the occasions comes to 17,890 only; but in this form of relief the benefit conferred is not to be gauged by mere numbers. Taking the average number of a tenant's family at 3, we have directly helped 53,670 persons. The benefits, moreover, in this form of relief are of permanent character, and we can say that we have secured the means of livelihood for 17,890 families, the members of which would otherwise have degenerated into mere labourers. Where cultivation is kept up, the district as a whole is benefited, and instead of detailing the various other advantages of this form of relief, I shall simply repeat what I said last time, that the benefits conferred by this form of relief are immense and incalculable, and that this is the noblest of all the objects of the Charitable Fund. That charity pleases not only men, but God also, is a belief which some may discard as mere superstition. But it has been supported by the results of both 1897-98 and of this year. As the kharif harvest of 1897-98 was almost unprecedentedly good, so that of this year has been distinctly above the average of the last seven years, and rabi has so far germinated well. May it please Him now to give us a bumper rabi crop!

* * * *

In the absence of reliable data it is difficult to give the approximate number of plough-bullocks which perished during the year. Though water was undoubtedly scarce and fodder in parts at any rate very scanty, I cannot learn that any cattle actually died

from starvation, though we may safely say that the general condition of the year was such as to intensify the effects of the various forms of disease which were very prevalent in the district throughout the year. Considering that in spite of importation of cattle from Rajputana, bullocks are now selling double the ordinary prices, I think I can safely put down the loss by death at less than 60,000.

* * * *

The large closing balance is composed mainly of items spent in the purchase of cloth or blankets, for which the reports of the distributing officers have not yet been received. The actual balance in Treasury to-day (20th November 1900) is only R2,015-0-11 and bills to the extent of R500 are outstanding.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing, on behalf of the multitude of afflicted persons relieved in their time of distress, a deep sense of gratitude to the generous benefactors whom they have never seen and never will see. When the British public had their own domestic troubles to think of and their own suffering countrymen to relieve, they did not forget their fellow-subjects, in India, and too much cannot be said of such large-hearted charity.

III—JUBBULPORE.

MR. L. T. SHEORAY, *Extra-Assistant Commissioner and Honorary Secretary.*

* * * *

The only kind of relief given under the first object consisted of gifts of blankets and clothing.

* * * *

Under object III the opening of shops for sale of cheap grain was regarded as a pressing necessity, and accordingly at a meeting held on the 19th of July last, the Committee resolved that a cheap grain shop should be started in the city of Jubbulpore, and that cheap grain—rice and wheat—should be sold on cash payment to deserving persons at rates 2 seers cheaper than the current market rates. This shop was started from 1st August under the supervision and control of a sub-committee, the Committee guaranteeing against loss caused by sales at rates lower than the cost price. The shop remained open for two months and nine days. Cheap grain was sold only to such needy persons as were certified to be fit recipients of this kind of charity. These persons were selected by certain members of the grain shop committee or by municipal ward members and given printed tickets or passes entitling the holders to get from the shop on cash payment cheap grain of certain specified value ranging from R3 to 8 annas per mensem. The pass-holders had to hand over the passes to the shop-keeper and were supplied with grain of the value specified therein. The grain sold was clean, and there have been no complaints of any admixture. Altogether R8,804 worth of grain was sold, the number of units relieved being 7,842. The total loss recouped from the charity Fund amounts to R1,783.

Out of the allotment of R68,000 for kharif seed, charity grants amounting to R60,071 were distributed to 12,678 agriculturists to help them to sow their lands, leaving a balance of R7,929, which was reserved for rabi. The distribution of these grants was mainly confined to the rice and kodon-growing tracts of the district. Preliminary lists of villages were first drawn up, excluding of course villages where last season's rabi crops were fairly good, or where it was known that the cultivators were generally well-to-do. Lists of needy and broken-down agriculturists were next prepared. These were carefully scrutinized by Tahsildars and Charge Officers at convenient spots and then taken as the basis of the final distribution. The grants were distributed at convenient centres by the aforesaid officers. Rai Bahadur Gajraj Singh supervised the distribution in the Jubbulpore Tahsil, and Mr. L. T Sheoray, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, in the Sehora Tahsil. In the Murwara Tahsil the distribution was at first supervised by Lieutenant Mears and latterly by Mr. L. T. Sheoray.

For rabi seed R72,150 has been allotted. The distribution has been finished, but information as regards the number of agriculturists helped is not available. Villages owned by substantial malguzars, who ordinarily help their tenants with seed-grain, and also villages which mainly grow kharif crops, were excluded from the operation, and charity grants were restricted to only such cultivators as could not possibly make their own arrangements for seed. Thus the total amount distributed for both harvests aggregated R1,32,221. Considering the impoverished condition of the agricultural community consequent on the continued bad harvests of previous years, a large sum of money was allotted for this purpose. Every attempt was made to ensure that charity grants reached only those who were really poor or involved in debts to such an extent as to make it unlikely that anybody would lend them seed. Although it has not been possible even with this large sum of money to extend to all deserving cases the fullest measure of relief, yet it cannot be denied that the distribution of this relief has done immense good to the persons it was intended to help.

The approximate total kharif area sown in the district during the current season is reported to be 530,650 acres. No statistics are available so as to show approximately what kharif area has been sown with the aid given from the Charity Fund; but I think about one-thirteenth of the total kharif area, or about 40,000 acres, may be taken as an approximately correct figure.

As the chief expenditure have been on grants to poor cultivators to enable them to buy seed wherewith to re-sow their fields, I shall refer only to this part of the Committee's operations.

The grants made for this purpose have been liberal, and very great care has been taken in having the money distributed. Explicit instructions on the subject were drawn up, and I can testify to the pains taken by the responsible officers to see that the proper persons received this form of relief. In every case distribution was made in the presence and with the assistance of the chief people of the particular tract. The good that has been done by these small grants of money to broken-down cultivators has been very great. It has enabled many, who would otherwise have been unable to sow their land, to make a fresh start in life, and now that a good harvest is being reaped, the benefit resulting is manifoldly increased.

II—MANDLA.

PANDIT VITHAL RAO KEKRE, *Honorary Secretary.*

Kharif is the chief harvest in this district. Untimely cessation of rains in 1899 caused a total failure of kharif crops almost all over the district, and specially in sahra and barra soils. The effects of famine naturally therefore manifested themselves in the tract bordering the Balaghat District, which mainly includes sahra and barra soils. Government relief measures in this tract began as early as November 1899. The people of other tracts too could not long resist the distress, and relief measures had to be extended almost all over the district. I cannot describe the spread of famine in better words than what the Deputy Commissioner has done in the District Famine Report. He says:—

The history of the famine of 1899-1900 is but a sequel to that of 1896-97. I do not propose to recapitulate all that has been said with reference to the latter and its causes, but will take up the history from the year 1897-98.

That year found the district much impoverished: a sixth of the population are reported to have died in 1896-97, cultivation had been put back, and many tenants and malguzars were burdened with a heavy load of debt.

In 1897-98 in spite of lavish grants of takavi and money from the Charitable Fund, the area under crop fell below that of the previous year. In spite of a large increase in the rabi area, the recovery is not very strongly marked.

* * * *

In comparing these figures with the normal it should be remembered that the occupied area reached 829,520 acres and the cropped area 598,955 acres in 1895-96; these figures give some idea of the check to prosperity caused by the famine of 1897. Another noteworthy fact is that though the occupied area is far larger than it was in 1893-94, the cropped area is less, indicating either a want of capital or considerable abandonments, which have not yet been recorded.

The extension in the cropped area is most marked in that under kharif, a natural result of the bumper harvest of 1897. The increase is most marked in rice, kodo, kutki, but has not reached the figure at which it stood in 1896-97, and is still lower than in 1893-94.

The area under rabi fell again in 1898-99, the decrease in double-cropped area more than accounting for the total decrease. In 1899-1900 the area was larger than in 1896-97. Considering the character of the rainfall this is somewhat surprising; it can be partly accounted for by the fact that many people gave up hope sooner and ploughed in their kharif crop and sowed rabi while the ground was still moist, and partly by the fact that the rainfall was light and scattered, which enabled the people to prepare their rabi land very thoroughly, so that it retained moisture, while in 1896 the rainfall was heavy and continuous up to a certain point and the preparation of land was impossible.

* * * *

The rainfall of 1897 was light, but was perfectly distributed, with the result that a bumper kharif harvest was reaped and the rabi harvest was up to the average.

The rainfall of 1898 was heavy and continuous, the heavy rain interfered with growth of the plants, and the kharif harvest was below the average. The rain stopped abruptly and the rabi suffered in consequence. The rainfall of 1899 was, I suppose, unprecedented: a somewhat similar year was 1868, but then a heavy fall in September saved the rabi.

The outturn of the principal crops for the same period is given below:—

Year.	Rice.	Kodo.	Til.	Wheat.	Gram.
1896-97	60	25	75	100	100
1898-99	90	90	45	81	90
1899-1900	45	45	85	100	75

The percentage of cropped area to the normal and percentage of the outturn to a normal outturn on a normal area is given below :—

	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Area	10	109	84	81	88	89
Outturn	91	53	32	95	75	43

The condition of the people should on these figures have been better in 1899 than 1896, but they had already been weakened by the famine of 1897 and their power of resistance had been seriously curtailed.

Relief operations during the famine were confined to kitchens, village relief and village works. The people, especially the aboriginal tribes, which form the majority of the population of the district, availed themselves of one or other form of relief with confidence. Government liberally helped the agricultural classes with takavi advances.

But as Government in advancing takavi must naturally see to the solvency of the recipients, the people of no means would have been left unhelped had not the Charitable Fund come to their rescue.

* * * *

The weavers of the town were found to be in distress for want of demand for their cloth, and R2,600 were allotted for their relief. About 35 families were maintained for three months by a fortnightly advance of R10 each. Nothing was advanced to them gratis. They were only helped with funds, and the Committee purchased their cloth. They manufactured about 2,080 pieces, and these were distributed to paupers who were found to be baldy in want of clothes. The recipients were generally persons fed in kitchens, from many of which complaints were received that many persons were practically naked. One thousand Burhanpur sarris were also sent for, and similarly distributed. One thousand six hundred blankets were sent for from Cawnpur and were distributed among male paupers.

Arrowroot supplied gratis by the Central Committee for invalid paupers was made over to the Civil Medical Officer and to the Manager of the Church Mission Orphange at Patpara for use of pauper invalids.

It has to be noted that the town of Mandla is famous for its bell-metal utensils. The Bharewas (a special caste) who work in the metal were found to be in distress, and it was proposed to help them. Rupees 570 were advanced to about 20 families at the rate of R5 a month, and pots were purchased from them at the prevailing market rate. These pots are in stock, and will be sold at reasonable prices, and the proceeds credited to the fund. Rupees 1,568 were distributed to the respectable paupers of the town of Mandla and Maharajpur. This relieved about 200 persons for four months, each having been paid R2 a month.

* * * *

Approximate total kharif area sown with the aid of the Charitable Fund was 57,000 acres. This area is calculated on the amount advanced from Charity Fund for kharif sowing, taking half for dhan and half for kodon at the rate of R2 per acre for the former and 6 annas per acre for the latter. The total area of kharif sown is approximated at 435,800 acres.

Approximate number of the members of the ryots' families who have been helped is 55,000. The number of ryots relieved is 11,179, and taking 5 persons per family, the number would come to 55,000 as stated.

* * * *

In concluding this report I cannot help remarking that the relief which resulted from advances from Charitable Fund were gratefully appreciated by the recipients and did immense good.

V.—SEONI.

MR. GAURI SHANKER BHARGAVA, *Honorary Secretary.*

Although this district has suffered from many droughts in the past, there has been none so severe as that of 1899-1900. People had hardly recovered from the disastrous effects of the famine of 1897-98, when within the short space of two years this district had to suffer again and in a very worse degree; and people whose resources had been much crippled in their struggle with the former famine had to face this second visitation with greatly diminished resources.

Owing to the most deficient rainfall of 23·58 inches against an average of 53·86 inches of the last 30 years, there was almost a total failure of the two most important kharif crops of dhan and kodo. The other crops also suffered more or less. The failure of dhan and kodo crops caused scarcity of fodder as well.

The scantiness of rain left the water-supply unreplenished, and as a consequence water currents, tanks and wells began to dry up as early as September 1899. There was

hardly any vestige of growing crops or verdure in the dhan-growing tracts of this district, and this fertile tract, called *sahra*, in reality looked no better than "*Sahara.*"

The rabi lands also got hardened for want of moisture, and much of such lands had to be left unsown. What little was sown under unfavourable circumstances yielded but a very meagre harvest.

We were thus brought face to face with this triple famine—want of food, want of fodder, and want of water—and it was this three-fold form of scarcity which made the famine so appallingly severe.

There was great loss of live-stock for want of fodder and wholesome drinking water which intensified the distress, and this district, which in prosperous times used to export grain, began to export hides instead.

As a natural consequence of the failure of crops prices rose, and keen were the sufferings of the poor.

The general outlook in the months of September and October 1899 was most gloomy, and despair and helplessness could be seen depicted in the faces of the poor peasants, who could not make both ends meet, and had to sell their cattle in order to tide over present want, ornaments having already been disposed of in their struggle for existence during the former famine.

Although in severity the famine was without a precedent, seldom could any one meet a starved-looking person. Who could have foreseen in the early days of the famine, with such a gloomy future before him, that this grim visitor would or could be so effectually combated as not to be able to claim a single victim?

The early and prompt relief measures adopted by the Government to cope with this awful condition of affairs, although they strained its resources and the nerves of its officers to the uttermost, have secured to it and to its officers the mute gratitude of the dumb millions and the proud satisfaction that not a single death could be attributed to starvation proper in this district.

* * * *

The relief under object I was chiefly confined to gifts of clothes and blankets; a small sum of money was also spent on extra comforts to pauper patients at the dispensary.

* * * *

The gifts of clothes and blankets to people who were almost in a state of nudity were a great blessing to them and were received with thankfulness.

* * * *

Two thousand nine hundred and forty-seven pieces of white chauti of local manufacture were purchased from local weavers. The Committee thus kept them employed and enabled them to eke out a subsistence for about two months.

* * * *

The Committee also requested a gift of clothing from the Provincial Committee, and in response to our appeal two bales containing Nagpur-made sarris, chaddars, dhotis, etc., were supplied. A large portion of the above blankets, cloths and clothing supplied by the Provincial Committee were sent out for distribution to the various Famine-relief Officers and some were kept for distribution at the dharamsala and to the town paupers.

* * * *

Relief under object III was given in the shape of cash doles varying from R1-8-0 to R2 per month per head to respectable paupers.

* * * *

Selection of such persons in the Seoni town was made by members of the District Committee, and the lists thus prepared where checked by me. Distribution of such allowances in the interior of the district at large towns where respectable paupers could be found was made through the Tahsildars, who were supplied with proper instructions regarding selection. The Hindu ladies in this part generally do not observe strict seclusion, and hence the number of Muhammadans relieved was comparatively large, being 305 against 180 Hindus.

* * * *

When the prices rose abnormally high, a cheap grain shop to relieve the middle classes was opened in the town of Seoni. The criterion of eligibility for purchasing grain from the shop was that persons whose income distributed over the members of the family gave an incidence of R1-8-0 or less per head per month were entitled to the benefit of the shop. Tickets in triplicates were printed, the original being kept in the office, and of the two counterfoils one was to be retained by the holder of the ticket and the other to be delivered to the grain contractor from the Committee.

The Committee sold rice and pissi wheat at 5 pice per seer, *i.e.*, about 13 seers per rupee, whereas the bazar rate was about 9¼ seers per rupee. The minimum quantity of grain the ticket-holder was allowed to purchase was R1 worth and the maximum R 4.

This form of relief was very popular and much appreciated.

The largest portion of the Charitable Fund allotment to this district was devoted to giving aid to broken-down peasants.

Lists of persons entitled to charity grants were prepared by the patwaris and checked by the distributing officers some time before the date fixed for distribution at various centres in the district, and tenants deserving of relief were given pay orders by the distributing

officers on the security of which they could have borrowed in the event of aid not reaching them in time. No such emergency, however, arose, as early distribution of grants was made, commencing from the 5th June last. Distribution of these grants was made by Government officers along with the takavi loan advances with the aid of members of the District Committee or with that of the Local Board members. Every possible care was taken to guard against the levy of blackmail by the patwaris, and so far as the Committee is aware, the charitable money was applied by the recipients to agriculture or purposes subservient to agriculture only.

* * * *

The grants under this object aggregate R65,927, and the number of tenants helped is 7,834, thus giving an incidence of 8·3 per tenant. The minimum amount given for kharif sowings was R1, and the maximum was R40.

No exact data as to the area sown with the aid of the above amount is available. The following calculation will, however, give a rough idea of the kharif area which was sown with the aid of this money. (Here follow the calculations, the result being that the Honorary Secretary puts down 17,000 acres as the approximate kharif area sown with the aid from this fund.)

* * * *

Rupees 35,000 received lately for rabi from the Provincial Committee were advanced to various distributing officers in the two tahsils. Full accounts of distribution of these grants have not yet been received.

A sum of R31,365 was distributed in two tahsils to 2,147 tenants, giving an incidence of R14-12-0 per tenant. The minimum grant was R5 and the maximum R40. The rabi area sown with the aid of this money can safely be put down at 5,600 acres.

* * * *

The magnificent sum subscribed by the British nation in spite of their heavy domestic troubles and sorrows has roused the liveliest feelings of thankfulness, and the thousands who have been saved from utter ruin and from death by exposure to the inclemencies of the weather owe a heavy debt of gratitude to their noble benefactors which they can never repay. This feeling of the people is not momentary, but of an enduring nature and the memory of all that has been done for them will never fade away, but will remain as a permanent tradition in the district among all classes.

VI.—NARSINGPUR.

PANDIT SADASHEO RAO, *Honorary Secretary.*

As regards the agricultural circumstances resulting in the famine of 1899-1900, Mr. deBrett, the Deputy Commissioner of the District and President of the Committee, makes the following remarks in his report on the subject:—

After the series of bad years which culminated in the famine of 1896-97 this district enjoyed one year of good crops in 1897-98. The harvest in the latter year was a very good one, but the cropped area was only 85 per cent. of the normal, and hence the gross outturn only gave what would have been an average crop on the usual cropped area. In 1898-99 the early cessation of the monsoon was very harmful and caused a further slight contraction of the cropped area. The outturn was less than two-thirds of the normal outturn on the normal cropped area. Many villages suffered, and remissions of land revenue amounting to R98,131 were sanctioned, In 1899-1900 the monsoon was very weak. Up to the end of July there was enough rain to enable kharif cultivation to be carried on and to keep the crops alive; after that the rainfall was extremely scanty, and the kharif crops, with the exception of tilli, cotton and san (hemp), did badly. The rabi crops were sown on a greatly contracted area and did not germinate satisfactorily. About two inches of rain fell in January and did some good, but the outturn was poor. The failure of the kharif harvest, coming as it did at a time when the district had not recovered from the misfortune of 1896-97, caused great distress among the poorer classes. There was little or no demand for labour, and prices were high, and this it was which started the famine.

* * * *

The Government having made adequate provision for relief of distress, the Committee proposed to spend the greater portion of the allotment in helping cultivators to get seed for kharif and rabi sowings. A small amount was also spent in maintaining persons who could not avail themselves of Government relief, and in providing blankets and clothing to inmates of kitchens and relief-workers.

* * * *

The total area under kharif cultivation is 329,393 acres. Of this about 55,000 acres were sown with the grants from the Charitable Fund. The area under rabi sowing has not yet been ascertained, but, roughly speaking, about 6,000 acres of land may be said to have been sown with rabi seed. This seed is more costly and requires not less than R15 to sow some 2½ acres of land.

VII.—HOSHANGABAD.

BABU JADU NATH DATTA, *Honorary Secretary.*

The official year ending 30th September 1900 was the most trying one, and the main features were that the rainfall was extremely insufficient and unseasonal, that the prices of food-grains were abnormally high, that fodder for cattle was scanty and scarce, that the mortality among men and cattle was abnormal, and lastly that the time-honoured caste prejudices disappeared among all classes of people, as is evidenced by their freely resorting

to the State relief works and availing themselves of the food supplied at the State kitchens. The spectacle was most painful and spoke more eloquently of the extreme severity of the distress than any wordy description could have done.

* * * *

The average mortality for the whole year is nearly 50 per mille, which is only 10 per mille more than the normal figure and much less than the mortality of 1897, when it was nearly 65 per mille. The total number of deaths is about 23,400. This indicates the thoroughness with which the distress was handled by the District Staff, whose efforts in this direction were greatly helped by the Charity Fund. As regards the mortality among cattle, I am only able to give approximate figures. There are about 1,300 villages in this district, and as the mortality among cattle, owing to insufficiency of fodder and drinking water, was great, it is not unreasonable to estimate the deaths at not less than 30 heads in each village, or in other words 39,000 heads in the whole district. The estimate is founded on a rough enquiry which I have been able to make from the malguzars and patwaris of the district.

It is needless to bear testimony to the immense value of the help given to the famine-stricken from the Charity Fund. For who is there who does not acknowledge his deepest indebtedness to the subscribers to the Charitable Fund and invoke Heaven's choicest blessings on them.

* * * *

The work of the Committee was carried through sub-committees formed at each of the Tahsil head-quarters, assisted by the Famine Circle Officers, whose services were kindly placed at the disposal of the District Committee by the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the President of the Committee.

The subscriptions locally raised were as far as possible spent in relieving the respectable poor, in the tahsils in which they were raised, under Object III (*a*), and the relief so given consisted of monthly subsistence allowance of from *one* rupee to *three* rupees according to the discretion of the sub-committees.

* * * *

Relief to agriculturists was granted for one or more of the following purposes:—

(*a*) Seed-grain enough for a holding consisting of from 10 to 15 acres of land of the value not exceeding R6.

(*b*) Bullocks or bullock-power according to the prevailing custom, the latter being preferred, of the value not exceeding R40 for a pair of bullocks or R25 for a single bullock, or R8 for bullock-power.

(Looking to the comparatively small sum at the disposal of the Committee for distribution, the last method of relief, *viz.*, helping with bullock-power, where it is available, was resorted to as far as possible.)

(*c*) Subsistence allowance for five months from June not exceeding R3 a month for a tenant.

The actual distribution of the money amongst the agriculturists was preceded by the framing of lists of deserving persons after due enquiry by the sub-committees with the assistance of the Charge Officers of Famine-relief circles. Early and convenient dates for distribution at named places were announced with a view to place the money in the hands of the recipients opportunely and without much trouble to them. The work was carried out smoothly, and there was no complaint on the score of unjust and untimely distribution. The assistance of the Charge Officers was sought by the Committee, as it was thought desirable to make the charitable gifts simultaneously with the takavi loans, the enquiry about the latter being substantially of the same nature as that about the charitable gifts, although the principles on which the loans are advanced and the charitable grants are made are different: for whereas the State loans are advanced in the expectation of recovering them with or without interest, for which reason they were given to substantial persons, the charitable gifts are made to persons who have completely broken down and are not entitled to State loans by reason of their being unable to furnish security and are therefore unable to borrow from the local money-lenders as they have no credit in the market.

The following figures show the amount spent in helping the agriculturists, the number relieved, and the approximate area sown with kharif crops with the help of the Charitable Fund:—

No. of tenants.	Area in acres.	Amount in rupees.
9,081	88,223	54,119

The prevailing character of the soil of this district is the alluvial, commonly known as the black cotton soil, which favours the growth of rabi crops more than kharif, which in former years, *i.e.*, before the present famine period commencing from 1893-94, were sown on about 30 per cent. of the cultivated area, away in the jungles and hilly tracts inhabited by the poorer classes of the population. In the greater part of the district the agriculturists never knew any other kinds of food crop than wheat and gram, and it is a question whether in spite of his having the poorer kharif crops for the last seven or eight years owing to uncertain and scanty rainfall, he is yet sufficiently well acquainted with the method of cultivating juar and autumn crops generally.

* * * *

The great drawback of this year was that the rains continued incessantly up to the end of September last, the consequence of which was that the kharif crops did not receive the benefit of weeding; indeed, juar and til were choked by rank vegetation which could not be weeded out for want of a break. It is very doubtful how the kharif crops will turn out in the end in this district, the signs being unfavourable up to now, for, only relieved by exceptions here and there, the eye is pained at the sight of stunted juar plants and absence of til, which could not be either sown for want of a break, or, if sown, was choked by excessive moisture.

* * * *

The principal features of the relief granted under Object I were the distribution of blankets, clothing and mats of the total value of R7,726 amongst persons in receipt of State relief, and contributions for medical treatment and comforts of such persons.

* * * *

Under Object III monthly subsistence doles were given to *parda-nashin* women and respectable poor who could not, by reason of their social position, avail themselves of State relief, and the weavers of the district were relieved by grants for manufacturing cloth for the Committee at costs previously settled with them.

* * * *

Artizans and craftsmen have also been helped with small gifts of money and blankets and clothing to enable them to re-start their homes afresh by purchasing tools and implements and domestic utensils.

VIII.—CHHINDWARA.

MR. MATHURA PERSHAD, *Honorary Secretary*.

The greater portion of the district may be described as a hilly and forest-clad country with a population purely depending upon agriculture.

* * * *

Regard being had to the physical condition of the district, the inferior but less industrious classes of people inhabiting it, and the poor quality of crops generally raised, a sufficient rainfall is of the utmost importance both for the kharif and the rabi.

The cultivation of winter crops may perhaps be conducted by means of irrigation from wells, tanks, etc., but for juar, cotton and other autumn crops a sufficient quantity of rainfall is absolutely necessary. For want of a regular system of irrigation, natural or artificial, the cultivators of this district are obliged to depend for their winter crops on a good quantity of rain during the rainy season and a few showers during the months of October and November.

* * * *

The sudden and early collapse of the monsoon during 1899 is thus no doubt the immediate cause of the present famine, but other circumstances, such as partial and local failure of crops during the years proceding the great famine of 1896, coupled with the general impoverished condition of the agricultural and labouring classes, have combined to aggravate its disastrous effects.

* * * *

The protracted break of the monsoon during the months of August and September caused serious apprehension of approaching distress, and early steps were taken by the authorities to meet it.

* * * *

The depth of the famine, the acuteness of the general and widespread distress all over the district, is sufficiently indicated by the number of persons in receipt of various forms of State relief, which at one time reached nearly a fifth of the entire population.

* * * *

As a result of the scanty rainfall side by side with the pressure of the famine, the difficulty of providing water for men and fodder for cattle presented itself.

During April, May and June the scarcity of fodder for cattle and want of wholesome drinking-water for men was most keenly felt. To meet the fodder difficulty, arrangements were made by the Deputy Commissioner for keeping large stocks of grass, obtained from Government forests, at convenient centres. Several *depôts* were opened in the interior of the district where grass was offered to the public for sale at reasonable rates. Famine labour was freely and most advantageously employed in improving the water-supply in all important towns and villages. All these prompt measures so energetically taken in hand considerably diminished the effect of the drought on men and cattle.

* * * *

(After describing the formation of local charitable relief committee on 4th November 1899, the report proceeds to say that on receipt of the Provincial Committee's Circular letter, the local committee was affiliated to the new organization.)

* * * *

The Jagirdars of the 11 jagirs, all the minor municipalities, and the two local boards, were constituted agents of the District Committee for the distribution of relief. The

connection of so many private gentlemen and local bodies with our General Committee thus brought into existence a body of trusted and responsible workers with whom rested the proper expenditure of the charitable money on purposes authorized by the rules of the Fund.

* * * *

The appeal to private charity was generously and promptly responded to. But it must be remembered that famine effected all classes of the people and materially crippled their resources. The amount they subscribed was therefore liberal enough under the circumstances.

* * * *

Object I.—The village relief and kitchen relief were freely introduced and systematically managed in all affected parts of the district. Grant of additional food to persons in receipt of Government relief was not necessary. The whole amount expended under this head was therefore applied in purchasing clothes and procuring medical comforts. Various kinds of clothes to suit the requirements of the people and blankets were purchased at a cost of R26,431. Kurtas (shirts) were given to children in the kitchens and weak and old persons on famine-relief works. The distribution in kitchens was made in the majority of cases by Charge Officers. Clothes intended for famine-relief workers were given by the Deputy Commissioner, Captain Humphrey, Superintendent of Famine Relief Works, and Sergeant J. Desmond, Sub-Divisional Officer, Public Works Department. In the town and kitchen of Chhindwara the distribution was made by myself. Experience of the past, as well as of the present famine, has amply shown that distribution of clothes is one of the most useful forms of relief. It is much liked and is always thankfully received. But the selection of persons for clothes has to be very cautiously and quietly made, otherwise a distributing officer often finds himself surrounded and driven from place to place by a crowd of *semi-nude* men, women and children. Captain Humphrey never took bundles of clothes with him for distribution. He always used to pay surprise visits to various relief camps, and in his rounds he picked up men, women and children who were in rags and gave them small chits bearing his signature, by means of which they were able to obtain the necessary clothes from the store rooms of the camp. Special arrangements were made to prepare a certain number of trousers with *chaddars* for Muhammadan ladies, who are generally reluctant to wear ordinary *sarris*. For young children and weakly persons in the kitchens and hospitals the kurtas (shirts) were most useful.

An expenditure of R1,257 was incurred in supplying relief works and kitchens with Mellin's Food, Swiss Milk, etc., for providing medical comforts to the infirm and old. As a rule all lean and emaciated persons were separated off from the rest and special diet, consisting of milk or Mellin's Food, and the prescribed quantity of ordinary diet, was served out to them. In this way many, specially children, who were provided by Government with a bare maintenance, were restored to their original health. The hospital patients of famine-relief works also greatly profited by this nutriment. I specially refer to the cholera patients during the great epidemic of cholera which broke out at most of the relief works during the hot season. At this time fresh milk would not be procured for the simple reason that fodder being scarce the milch cows and she-buffaloes had become dry. In places where milk was procurable very high prices had to be paid for it; condensed Swiss Milk was therefore most advantageously substituted for fresh milk. The expenditure under this head was thus supplied to one of the most benevolent objects for which the Charity Fund is designed.

* * * *

Object II.—The very small number of orphans left without any friends or guardians at the close of the famine is mainly attributable to liberal expansion of State relief in all its branches. During the last famine not less than 300 or 400 orphans were picked up, and the majority of them handed over to the local Mission Society; but thanks to the good administration of famine relief during the present crisis, only 109 children were found uncared for. Out of this, 48 orphans have been already claimed back by their natural guardians.

* * * *

Under orders of the Deputy Commissioner a central orphanage was opened at Chhindwara, and all Relief Officers were instructed to take charge of all orphans and send them to Chhindwara. The feeding charges were paid by Government, while clothing and other medical comforts were provided at the expense of the Charitable Fund.

* * * *

Object III.—In view of the numerous kitchens opened throughout the district and having regard to the complete system of gratuitous relief to persons who were unable to go to the relief works or join the kitchen, there was no need to give any allowance from our Fund under this object.

It must be borne in mind that persons contemplated by this object are generally to be found in important towns with a pretty large Muhammadan population. The town of Chhindwara is the only town in the district answering to this description. Here some Muhammadan ladies were discovered to whom special relief was given in the manner shown below.

The large number of dhotis and sarris purchased by the Committee failed to provide

adequate clothing to children in camps and kitchens. The idea of converting these dhotis and sarris into shirts and cholis suggested itself to some members of the Executive Committee. Instead of employing professional tailors to do the needful, a sewing class with the object of providing relief to respectable Muhammadan ladies was opened. A house was rented in the heart of the town and all persons admitted into the sewing class were required to meet there in order to do the work allotted to them. Wages calculated according to famine rates were paid to them every evening in the immediate presence of a member of the Committee. A clerk on ₹10, Public Works Department, was entertained to supervise the business and test the quality of the work done. Ladies of respectable families, who dared not come out of their houses for fear of public disgrace, but who were the greatest sufferers from famine, were given clothes in their own houses and were allowed to do the work in privacy. Wages in the shape of money doles were partly paid out of kitchen funds and partly out of the charitable funds. The number of persons relieved in this manner was 79, most of whom were widows with children having no one to support them. They could not come forward and ask for Government relief.

* * * *

No less than 12,397 kurtas, 1,628 cholis, 192 trousers with chaddars, 31 jangias, (short trousers) and 61 caps for boys were made during the six months that the relief was kept open. At the close of the sewing class small sums of money varying from 8 annas to ₹2 per head were paid. This will enable the recipients to purchase the necessary requisites of their profession, such as needles and thread, etc.

* * * *

Object IV.—This most important object has absorbed the bulk of the Fund. Not only proper arrangements were made for the relief of poor cultivators, but the distressed condition of artizans and other professional traders did not escape attention. The total amount spent on the relief of persons entitled to be helped under this object is ₹1,03,226 out of which ₹2,443 were distributed to artizans and petty traders, while the remainder ₹1,00,782 was applied directly to the relief of such poor tenants as had neither credit with any banker nor were eligible for takavi loans. Out of a total number of 73,556 tenants in the whole district, 12,634 have received help for seed-grain, bullocks and their own maintenance during the rainy season. All money was distributed through the Charge Officers under personal supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

* * * *

The probable number of bullocks which must have been purchased with the help of the money granted for the purpose is ₹3,945. Besides this ₹1,881 were granted to procure bullocks on hire or the bahi system, as it is locally in use among a majority of tenants in this district. A certain number of tenants who had left relief works to attend to their cultivation were provided with small sums for their own support and that of their families.

* * * *

A set of rules was framed by the Deputy Commissioner for the guidance of Charge Officers, and they may be thus summarized :—

The money is to be so allotted—

(*a*) That the greatest possible area may be sown.

(*b*) That the greatest possible number of cultivators may get sufficient of their land sown to help them during the coming year.

(*c*) That no one is to be helped who can make arrangements to get his land ploughed and sown without help.

(*d*) Victims of famine are to be helped in preference to chronic bankrupts.

(*e*) By helping cultivators with fairly large holdings, to provide work for day-labourers.

The difficulty of providing fodder for the bullocks which might be purchased by cultivators receiving pecuniary aid from the Charitable Fund was not lost sight of, and the Deputy Commissioner issued the following instructions on this subject :—

It is no use providing a cultivator with bullocks if he has not the means to feed them. Except of course in the jagirs the gift of cattle should be conditional upon the cultivators applying for a loan of the grass to feed them for two and a half months. The application for loan should be written then and there by the Patwari.

* * * *

To cultivators so applying all grass will be given at the rate of ₹4-8-0 per 28 maunds * * *. If the Charge Officer thinks necessary he may include the price of the grass for the period in the free gift of bullocks, in which case the payee can simply buy the grass from the licensed vendor.

The total number of bullocks which have died during the famine cannot be correctly ascertained, and the figures given by the Charge Officers is only approximate. According to them, the number is 25,653. Making a deduction of 25 per cent. for incorrect statistics, still the number lost is large.

* * * *

Arrangements for the distribution of charity money for seed-grain and bullocks, etc., were completed in the month of April and the actual distribution took place in the beginning of May. Groups of villages were formed with head-quarters at a central place, and

after a careful enquiry into the circumstances of each applicant, money was granted. Cultivators who had left their villages in order to find employment on relief works were not neglected. They were called back from their works and given all necessary means to carry on their cultivation. During the rains the officers were provided with a sum of R5,000 for further distribution in case any tenants were actually found standing in need of assistance. They were instructed to meet all such cases and had full authority to pay them out of their advances.

The incalculable amount of good done to the general prosperity of the people, and the degree of success attained by the timely distribution of charitable money for seed-grain and bullocks to poor and helpless agriculturists, may be judged from the fact that in 1897-98, the year succeeding the great famine of 1896, only 203,670 acres of land was under kharif crops, while during the current year with the help of Government takavi and the Charitable Fund we find a very large area of land, 588,157 acres, sown with kharif. The area actually sown with the help of the charity money cannot be correctly ascertained. But roughly speaking one-third of the total area under the kharif crops must have been ploughed and sown with the assistance received from it.

* * * *

The high prices of food-grain prevailing in the local markets soon attracted the attention of the Committee, and the establishment of a cheap grain shop in the town of Chhindwara was considered desirable, because past experience had testified to the great effect which such an institution indirectly produced upon the current prices of food stuff. A small sub-committee was constituted for the efficient management of the shop, which was opened on 13th July 1900 and closed on 21st August 1900, when new grain began to come into the market and prices went down.

As regards the mode of working, deserving persons were selected and granted tickets by means of which they were able to obtain a fixed quantity of grain at the rate of 10 seers a rupee, while the market rate was 7½ seers per rupee.

There being a considerable number of weavers in the district, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the necessity of providing some kind of relief for the mitigation of their distress. In the Chhindwara town as well as in other important towns in the district the weavers greatly suffered owing to the absence of customers for their hand-made goods. Clothes in very large quantities were therefore purchased directly from the weavers.

This mode of purchasing clothes continued for about four months. But subsequently the Deputy Commissioner introduced a regular scheme for the relief of weavers. Under this scheme clothes were purchased from selected persons only who were found in distressed circumstances. The entire outlay of R26,431 on purchase of cloth may thus be said to have been applied in relieving 993 families of the weaver class, composed of 4,965 members, for about six months.

A certain number of weavers were noticed in the district who were either forced by privation to resort to relief works or had left their legitimate business for want of sufficient funds to carry it on. These were paid small sums in order to give them a fresh start in life. Three hundred and fourteen weavers were thus helped, and they have provided themselves with looms, thread, and other necessaries of their trade.

Besides weavers, persons of other castes and professions were also assisted with free grants of money.

Twenty-five Pinjaras (spinners of cotton) and 15 Singars (bangle-makers) were paid R106 and R150, respectively, to enable them to procure implements of their trade.

A trifling expenditure of R9-6-0 was incurred in purchasing and distributing 100 scythes to persons of the labouring class who were discharged from the Chhindwara kitchen. It must not be forgotten that persons of this class when admitted to any form of Government relief always come without a single *pie* in their possession. The distribution of so many scythes was therefore most welcome to them, because this gave them the means of earning livelihood by cutting and selling grass.

* * * *

It now remains for me to state in what way the Charitable Fund has been useful to the people: the highest number in receipt of Government relief in different forms was 70,000. Out of this, not less than 48,580, or nearly three-fourths, received help from the Fund.

It will perhaps be a satisfaction to the subscribers of this noble Charity Fund to know that their liberal and timely help has been the means of saving several thousands of persons from great misery and sufferings. Twelve thousand six hundred and thirty-four agriculturists, representing 51,049 people with their families, have been provided with funds to carry on their cultivation. Nine hundred and ninety-three poor weavers' families, consisting of 4,963 persons, have been provided with employment for an approximate period of 6 months. Four hundred and fifty-four persons of the labouring and artizan classes have been supplied with necessary funds and other materials to carry on their calling, by means of which they will be able to support 2,270 members of their families. Thirty-thousand two hundred and fourty poor people have been granted various articles of wearing apparel and blankets to cover their nakedness. Three thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine patients in Government hospitals and weak and infirm persons have most gratefully received medical comforts from the Fund. One hundred and ninety-six orphans and Muhammadan widows with their young children have been benefitted by the Fund in some way or other.

To sum up, 48,580 persons have received direct help from the Fund, and with the pecuniary assistance so received they were able to support during the worst days of the famine not less than 92,377 members of their families. For all this the District Committee begs to convey, on behalf of the people of this district, their deep sense of gratitude to the subscribers all over the British Empire and elsewhere for their generous help.

The organization of this noble Charity Fund has produced a firm and everlasting impression on the mind of the people that their rulers will not suffer them to die of starvation, and that they can safely rely on the sympathy of the great British Nation in their calamities and misfortunes.

Extract from Deputy Commissioner's remarks on the Chhindwara Report.

Rupees 8,468 were raised as local subscriptions, while we received R1,25,500 from the Provincial Committee, making a total sum of R1,33,968 at our disposal. This large sum has been administered and distributed with extraordinary economy. Office charges (exclusive of the special establishment for supervising the weaver relief) amounted to only R71, the work being carried on by the District Fund Clerk for a small extra allowance. Mr. Mathura Pershad, Honorary Secretary, has devoted himself most untiringly to the interests of the Fund, and it is owing to his initiation that our funds have been directed into many side-channels of charity which would otherwise have remained undiscovered. The district no less than the Fund has been fortunate in finding so thoughtful and resourceful an almoner.

It will be seen that a large sum, not short of R28,000, has been spent in clothing. This sum has been made to do a double duty. Its expenditure has helped a large number of poor weavers, besides providing clothing and blankets to large numbers of poor persons, who were in the direst straits to cover their nakedness and protect themselves from the great cold of these upland tracts.

Only country-made cloth was purchased. Some five hundred selected weavers were specially assisted by small gifts of money, and an agreement made to purchase so much cloth from each, the value varying from R15 to R25. This arrangement took the place of all State relief to weavers and has worked most successfully. Rupees 1,215 were spent as gifts to weavers to provide them with the necessary stock and plant. The cost of supervising the business amounted to only R151.

* * * *

In conclusion, I think we may claim that the Fund has been successfully administered.

IX.—NAGPUR.

MR. M. B. DADABHOY, *Honorary Secretary.*

In October 1899 under the fever of speculation resulting from the total failure of rains and the gloomy prospects ahead all over the country, prices of food-grains suddenly rose to famine rates. As a consequence people with small means in the city of Nagpur found themselves in great straits. They in large numbers began to flock to the authorities and prayed to be relieved. Time had not then arrived to open Government relief in the town itself. Accordingly, with the concurrence of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, arrangements were made to open a cheap grain shop in the heart of the town. Some gentlemen came forward to advance the necessary capital and finance and manage the shop, provided the loss resulting from sale below the current market prices would be recouped to them. To enable this to be done subscriptions were invited and an application was also made through the Local Government to the trustees of the balance of the Charitable Fund of 1897 for a grant. The appeal for subscriptions was well responded to, and a shop was opened where arrangements were made for sale of food-grain at favourable rates, and a committee appointed to manage it. The following rules were framed:—

Rules for selection of persons to be relieved.

(1) Only persons whose monthly income distributed over the members of their families depending on them for support yields an incidence of R1-8-0 per head or less shall be admitted to the benefit of the shop.

(2) Every person wishing to have the benefit of the shop shall apply in the prescribed form (to be had gratis) to the Municipal member of the ward where he resides. The member shall report as to the income of the applicant and the number of members of his family above and below 12 years of age.

(3) All applications with the ward member's report thereupon shall be placed before the sub-committee of selection appointed by the Executive Committee of the Fund. The Sub-Committee shall select from among the applicants persons eligible for relief: provided that the total number of such persons shall not exceed the number fixed from time to time by the Executive Committee of the Fund.

(4) Every person selected as above shall be entitled to buy at the shop grain not exceeding two rupees per month for every member of his family above the age of 12

years: provided that no person shall be entitled to buy in a month grain worth more than ₹12.

(5) To every person selected shall be given a pass under the signature of the Municipal Secretary at the Municipal Office. The pass shall show the amount of grain the holder shall be entitled to buy in a month under rule 4.

Rules for sale of grain at the cheap grain shop.

(1) No person shall be entitled to buy grain at the shop who does not hold a pass issued by the Municipal Secretary under authority of the Executive Committee of the Fund.

(2) A pass-holder wishing to buy grain shall deliver his pass to the register-writer at the shop and while doing so shall state the kind and quantity of grain he wants to buy.

(3) The register-writer shall enter in the register prescribed for the purpose the name and other particulars given in the pass, as also the kind and quantity of grain wanted. He shall then calculate its price, recover it from the pass-holder, and note on the pass the quantity and kind of grain to be sold and the amount of price recovered therefor.

(4) The pass with the note on it by the register-writer shall then be taken to the official in charge of the grain, who shall cause the grain as noted on the pass to be delivered, and having done so, shall initial the entry on the pass.

(5) A pass-holder may buy the grain noted on the pass in a lump or by instalments. The pass shall be cancelled when the whole quantity covered by it is purchased.

Rules for the management of the shop.

(1) The shop shall be financed and managed on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Fund by the subscribers to the capital of the shop.

(2) The subscribers shall appoint a Committee of their own to work the shop. The committee shall appoint a manager and a secretary.

(3) It shall be the duty of the manager to make all arrangements for the purchase of grain; and he shall always have in stock a quantity sufficient to meet the requirements of the shop.

(4) At the beginning of the day, the manager shall hand over to the shop-official in charge sufficient grain of all kinds to meet the expected demands of the day. He shall visit the shop every now and them and supervise the sales as they go on. At the end of the day he shall take an account of the grain sold and the balance in hand, if any. He shall similarly examine the accounts of the register-writer and take over from him the sale-proceeds of the day.

(5) The secretary shall cause a cash-book and a ledger to be maintained. He shall examine them daily and certify the cash balance in hand as correct.

(6) At the end of the month the manager in charge shall submit an account of the transactions of the month, showing the loss incurred during the month, to the Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Fund. The statement shall be examined by the auditor appointed by the Executive Committee, and on his certifying that it is correct, payment shall be made from the Fund up to and not exceeding the guaranteed amount.

* * * *

After describing the conversion of the committee of October into a branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, the report proceeds:—

Total allotment made to this district was ₹1,17,000, of which ₹56,000 was for the kharif sowings, ₹6,000 for the first three objects and ₹55,000 for rabi sowings. The last allotment was made partly at the close of the month of September and partly in October, and as it is still going on the detailed account of distribution is not yet ready.

* * * *

The Deputy Commissioner while distributing the relief found the allotment inadequate for kharif sowings and reqested this Committee to send some more money if available, and ₹4,000, which was in the hands of this Committee as balance on account of local subscriptions, was sent to him to meet the deficiency.

Out of the sum of ₹60,000 remitted to the Deputy Commissioner for distribution for kharif sowing, ₹58,905 was distributed among 4,429 tenants, thus giving an incidence of 13·3 rupees per tenant. These grants were made for purchase of seed-grain and bullocks. The elaborate system of village relief precluded the necessity of giving anything for subsistence during the interval between sowing and reaping.

* * * *

The grant of ₹6,000 for the first three objects, as would appear from the reports of gentlemen entrusted with the work of distribution, was sufficient to meet the requirements of the district people. Rupees 7,180, or ₹1,180 over and above the allotment made for this purpose, was spent on this account, and there can be no question that much more could have been usefully spent under the head had the money been forthcoming.

When the first grant on this account was received, it was decided to devote the money towards the purchase of blankets. Thus 1,770 blankets were obtained from the Cawnpur Woollen Mills Company at a total cost of ₹2,990. It is a practice in this part to use blankets not only as a protection against the cold but also against the rains. The blankets bought seemed not to suit exactly the requirements of the people. They were too heavy

to be carried about and the texture was not such as to be able to stand the rains. This could not have been unforeseen when the order was given.

As regards clothes, local made stuff was purchased from the weavers. The Empress Mills also gave us some of their irregular dhotis and sarris and cuttings at very cheap rates. With the cuttings, kurtas were made. Thus the grant was made to go as far as possible. With R4,191, 4,120 dhoties, 2122 sarris, 840 chaddars, and over 1,000 kurtas were procured. These were all duly distributed and proved an immense boon.

* * * *

From the information obtained from the Land Revenue Department of the Deputy Commissioner's office it appears that the actual number of plough cattle which have died during the period from 1st October 1899 to 30th September 1900 is 35,528.

Besides this, there has also been a considerable loss of buffaloes, cows and young stock, although the number lost cannot be ascertained. All this means substantial loss of wealth to the agriculturist. What makes the matter more serious is that the cattle lost cannot be replaced here soon.

* * * *

One sad feature of the present drought is that it is the big agriculturist with a large area to cultivate, either as a proprietor or as a privileged tenant, and many head of cattle to keep alive, who has suffered heavily. For while his ordinary expenses remained almost the same, the source from which he had hitherto met them failed him. In losing his crops he lost all the resources wherewith to maintain himself, his family, servants and dependants. It will perhaps be found that indebtedness among this class has largely increased during the past season.

My Committee cannot conclude this report without expressing their warmest gratitude to the numerous Famine Officers, both high and low, whose sympathy for the sufferers and whose self-sacrifice and devotion to duty have earned for them the warmest gratitude of the people of this country. My Committee can testify to the admirable arrangements for distributing food to the aged, to the young helpless, and infirm on the famine camps, to the efficient and very complete arrangements made for affording prompt and speedy relief to the sick, and for providing work for the strong and able-bodied.

X.—BHANDARA.

RAO SAHIB RANG RAO, *Chairman.*

* * *

Two-thirds of our cultivated area is covered by rice cultivation, which requires timely and sufficient rains. The cultivators had sown all their seed, and in some instances transplantation was finished. They earnestly looked for rains from day to day, but no rain came. The paddy transplanted, or sown broadcast, began drying up, and by the end of September it was certain that the rice cultivation in the district was a failure and a severe famine was impending.

The extent of the severity of the famine may fairly be judged from the following statement extracted from the official papers about the proportion of revenue recommended to be realised according to yield of the crops of the year:—

Out of 1,815 villages in the district:—

Extent of produce.	Number of villages.	Percentage of the villages in the district.
No produce	749	41·2
1 to 25 per cent.	820	45·2
25 to 50 „	185	10·3
50 to 75 „	43	2·3
75 to 100 „	7	·3
Full	13	·7

The last full-cropped villages are those in the vicinity of large tanks such as Nawegaon, Seoni and Siregaon Bandhs. The famine was more severe and widespread than that of 1896-97 and it was intensified by the dearth of water.

* * * *

After describing the constitution of a Charitable Relief Committee in the first week of October 1899, and its conversion into a branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund the report proceeds:

It was resolved that the funds locally raised be spent for the present on the following objects:—

(i) Clothing and blankets for relief-workers and others.
(ii) Cheap grain shop at Bhandara.
(iii) Free gifts to *parda-nashins* and others precluded by their social position from taking advantage of State relief.

Three sub-committees were appointed to supervise the working in different departments.

* * * *

The agencies for the distribution of clothes under Object No. 1 were mainly the Officers-in-charge and Charge Officers for their respective charges.

* * * *

The other important operations of the Committee was the distribution of clothing to the respectable poor in Bhandara as well as outside. This work was managed by the Chairman and some of the members of the Committee.

* * * *

We had actually no expenditure under the second object, but we supplied Mellin's Food, cornflour, biscuits and Swiss condensed milk to the orphanage under the Revd. Dr. J. Sandlands. We distributed very little in the shape of money to the respectable poor. Most of our distribution was in the shape of clothing, and in such distribution there could be no possibility of overlapping.

The Government Weaver-relief Committee at its initial stage helped the weavers for manufacturing course cloth. All this stock was purchased by the Charitable Fund. Subsequently the said Committee confined itself to weaving fine cloth only. Accordingly the Charitable Fund Committee organized relief amongst the coarse-cloth weavers by giving them small advances and recouping the same in small instalments from the cloth produced.

Object IV.—The inspecting officers were simultaneously distributing agricultural loans from the Provincial Fund, and they were instructed to make separate lists of tenants who were entitled to charitable relief, and who were eligible for Government loans.

* * * *

Object III.—Although the Committee has not spent any money on orphans specially, yet they received clothing in the different kitchens where they were supported by Government, and as the kitchens are now closing they will be sent from different places to the head-quarters, where they would be taken care of until they are given over to proper guardians or orphanages.

* * * *

Rao Sahib Rang Rao and Mr. M. R. Pathuk commenced the distribution of clothing to the respectable poor in the town of Bhandara from October 1899. At first a list was made out of all the women, men and children, of all classes of each mohalla, who were thought deserving of gifts of clothing, by private enquiry, and the cloth was either sent to them or given them at particular centres.

* * * *

Opportunity was taken of the opening of the Bhandara Water-works on the 15th April, when through the liberality of Mahadeo Set of Tumsar 3,000 poor persons were fed in a mandwa erected near the sarai, to give clothes to the poor.

Rai Bahadur C. K. Chatterji represented that the poor residing in the heart of the Government forest could not be reached by Government officers appointed for the purpose, and offered to distribute the clothing to them through his Range Officers, and this was done.

* * * *

The Committee did not consider it advisable to distribute much in money doles to *parda-nashin* women, but, instead of it, employed a better way of giving relief to them, which enabled them to maintain themselves by earning their livelihood by remaining in the *parda*. This was the starting of the sewing department. Kurtas and coats for distribution were sewn by these women, and they were paid for the same. The number of *parda-nashins* who were so employed was 546, and the amount paid was ₹543. This department was kindly supervised by Mrs. Rang Rao.

* * * *

Our district is principally a rice-producing district. Nearly two-thirds of our area under cultivation is covered by rice cultivation. We had hardly time to recover from the effects of the famine of 1896-97, when the present famine, more severe and widespread, spread a gloom over our district. The kharif cultivation which covered an area of 611,333 acres in 1898-99 fell to 473,723 acres in 1899-1900, or a fall of 137,610 acres; and the rabi area similarly fell from 380,558 acres in 1898-99 to 194,636 acres, or a fall of 185,922 acres, or a total fall of 323,426 acres.

Thus it was very important that the larger portions of our money should be devoted to the relief of our distressed kharif cultivators. The amount received from the Executive Committee for this object was ₹1,40,000. It was distributed by the officers in the famine charges in which the district was divided. Out of ₹1,40,000 thus distributed, ₹11,363 were given for the purchase of bullocks and the remaining ₹1,28,637 were given for seed-grain. The latest returns show that during the current year the area covered by kharif cultivation in the district is 537,437 acres, or 63,708 acres more than the last year. It is very difficult to state even approximately how much area has been cultivated by the aid of the Charitable Fund; but a rough estimate can be made. The amount distributed for providing seed-grain was ₹1,28,637. The average rate of dhan seed was 16 per khandi, and in this amount 8,040 khandis of paddy seed can be purchased. A khandi of paddy seed covers an area of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Thus we may fairly presume that roughly 20,100 acres of kharif land were cultivated by the aid of the Charitable Fund. This comes to one-third of the excess cultivation over the last year, or 3 per cent. of the total kharif cultivation of the district. With regard to number of members of the families

of the 12,721 cultivators relieved I have no data, but an average of four members per family would give 50,884. The mortality of plough-bullocks can be judged by the comparison with the figures of 1898-99. In 1898-99 the number of plough-bullocks was 183,520, while in 1899-1900, 173,580, or a difference of 9,940. Most of this mortality was in the Gondia and Amgaon circle, where there is no Government forest nor private forest available for grazing, and the cattle subsisted mostly on hay, which was not obtainable on account of failure of dhan. The whole of R11,363 was distributed for purchase of bullocks in these circles. The opening of the Government forest for free-grazing and the free removal of grass had much to do in saving agricultural cattle. Had it not been for this, most of the agricultural cattle of this district would have perished. It was a boon which the people appreciated most.

XI.—CHANDA.

THE REV. ALEXANDER WOOD, *Honorary Secretary.*

After describing the measures taken to relieve distress before the formation of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, the report proceeds to explain how the old committee was transformed into a branch of the new organization.

* * * *

Kharif sowings.—The object of the Fund as stated in the Chief Commissioner's Circular No. F-48, dated the 3rd April 1900, was, as far as possible, to supplement the efforts of Government in ameliorating distress among such classes and in such cases as Government relief, from the nature of its operations, did not touch.

It was therefore resolved to devote the sum at the disposal of the Committee in May almost wholly to the relief of distressed cultivators, as in this way present distress was mitigated, and by insuring, as far as might be, a crop, the danger of the recurrence of another year of famine was obviated in some degree.

* * * *

In issuing the relief allotments it had been resolved to ask the services of Charge Officers to assist and advise the Committee in the selection of suitable recipients. The Deputy Commissioner therefore requested them to send in, along with the takavi estimates they were preparing, an estimate of the money required in the charge from the Charitable Relief Fund. Accordingly estimates were sent in by the Charge Officers stating their needs.

In all cases takavi loans were given to the richer tenants, while an endeavour was made to set the poorer tenants on their feet once more by a free gift from the fund.

* * * *

The method of disbursing the fund was as follows:—Cheque books had been provided in which the name of each recipient was written and the fly-leaf given him as a pay order. Centres in each charge where pay orders would be liquidated were proclaimed throughout the district. On the 3rd June and consecutive days all possessors of pay orders brought them to their respective paying centres previously proclaimed, and the face value of the pay order was given him. The recipient signed a receipt on the pay order for that amount and this was countersigned by the paying officer and then put along with its counterfoil. A separate register was also kept where entries were made recording each payment and signed by the paying officer. These accounts were then forwarded to the office of the Fund and the advance adjusted.

* * * *

Clothing grants (issue of clothes).—As soon as the kharif allotments were made the Committee began to consider the allotments for clothes. As early as the 23rd April Captain Roberts wrote a letter to the Committee, pointing out that the people in receipt of a gratuitous relief dole were in many cases wretchedly clad, as were also those in Civil and Public Works Department kitchens. He also gave it as his opinion that if clothes were not provided for these, a large number of deaths would occur as soon as the rains broke.

The Committee resolved as far as possible to have clothes and blankets manufactured locally so as to give employment to the Koshti and Mahar weavers, of whom there were large numbers in the district. In this way the clothing money would be twice spent—first as a relief wage to weavers, and second in gifts of clothes to the destitute.

Accordingly, tentative allotments of R200 were made to each charge, and the Charge Officer was instructed to make an effort to have the clothes required for his charge made within the charge.

In the event of his being able to get the required amount manufactured, the full sum of his allotment would be sent him, or any less sum that he could use.

In order to encourage local weaving as much as possible, a standard price list was sent showing the prices at which clothing and blankets could be procured in Chanda town, and the Charge Officer was instructed to give up to two annas more than this standard rate, as it was considered that this extra price could nearly be recouped in the saving on transport, etc., since it was not expected that every article would be two annas dearer in any charge.

The reply was most encouraging. Twelve out of the fourteen charges were able to provide some part of their clothing locally.

The Committee then resolved to get as large a stock of clothes as possible made in Chanda town, so as to supplement the efforts of such charges as could not manufacture their full complement locally.

A contract for blankets was given to Mr. Vithoba Mamadwar, a local Komti, and a large number of weavers were employed.

In spite of this, however, a sum of R6,500 was spent on the purchase of a consignment of saris and dhotis from the Empress Mills, Nagpur, as the local weavers could not provide the full complement in time for distribution. The total sum distributed for clothes was R35,665-6-0 from the Fund, and of this R29,165 was practically *twice spent* in the district, *i. e.*, as wages and as gifts. But in addition to this, Chanda charge was supplied with clothing from the *Chanda Mission Famine Relief Fund*, which disbursed a sum of R1,725 for this object, and also made a grant of R900 towards the Forest Camp Clothing Fund.

* * * *

Grants for bullocks.—During the long drought which caused the famine in this district the sufferings of the cultivators' cattle may be more easily imagined than described.

Water towards the end of May and throughout the month of June was scarcely to be procured. Wells were dry in the great majority of small villages, and cattle had to be taken to a distance of several miles to be watered. Food was scanty even in the jungles, and the burnt-up grass was not a very sustaining diet even when procurable. Added to this the rains did not break till nearly a month after the normal time for the monsoon, and it was this last month which caused the dreadful mortality among cattle. As soon as the young grass began to appear, the cattle died in even greater numbers, as this is, even in ordinary years, unhealthy time for them, and this year they had no stamina to tide them over the unhealthy period. Statistics of cattle mortality kept coming in week by week from the Charge Officers, and the Committee resolved to make a special grant for bullocks out of the small balance of R9,000 which was in hand.

Rupees 7,500 were allotted to nine charges, *i. e.*, grants of R2,500 to each of the Charge Officers of Chanda, Warora and Brahmapuri, with instructions to buy cattle in the local markets, and distribute them in equal proportions in the charges of *Chanda*—Mul Chamursee, *Warora*—Segaon, Chimur, *Brahmapuri*—Armori and Talodhi. The price of cattle rose rapidly, and it was found that a fairly good pair of plough-bullocks could not be procured for less than R50 or thereabout. And even at that price cattle were not procurable in the markets of Warora, Brahmapuri and Chanda, nor indeed cattle at any price.

* * * *

Further instructions were given empowering Charge Officers, where they thought it wise to spend some portion of the grant in small money-gifts to cultivators to enable them to *hire* plough-cattle to till the ground for rabi sowings. This was accordingly done.

* * * *

Cheap grain shop.—The method adopted by the Committee for conducting the sale of grain was as follows:—A number of tickets was issued by the Secretary to each ward member, with the general instructions that no person whose monthly income was R10 per month or over was entitled to a ticket unless the numbers of members in the family was six or over.

The ward member selected certain people or issued tickets to those who applied, after enquiry into their suitability for receiving assistance.

Having satisfied himself on that head, the ward member then wrote on the ticket this number of persons in the recipient's family and signed it. The recipient then took the ticket to the shop where the clerk entered his name, ward, and number of family members in the register, and also calculated his daily allowance which was taken at three-fourths of a "paili" per head for his household. The amount of daily allowance was entered on his ticket and also in the register, with the amount of his purchase. The recipient was not allowed to make any further purchase in the shop until the amount previously purchased had been exhausted as shown by his daily allowance. In this way the purchases were checked and possibilities of fraudulent purchase obviated. The ward members in most cases took much interest in the work and aided the Committee *most efficiently*.

Regarding the gratitude of the people the report says—

My own experience has been that while gifts of money for seed-grain and bullocks were received rather apathetically, gifts of clothes elicited an enthusiatic gratitude out of all proportion to the comparative value of the gift.

XII.—BILASPUR.

MR. N. N. DEY, *Honorary Secretary.*

* * * *

The total allotment made to this district for kharif sowings was R2,55,000. With this sum 30,584 broken-down agriculturists were given a fresh start in life, and thus prevented from degenerating into landless labourers. The total area under kharif crops

in the district is 1,165,732 acres, out of which the approximate area sown with the help given from the Charitable Fund comes to as much as 168,662 acres. Had it not been for this most timely help, most of this land would have been left unsown. It is needless to say how very grateful the people are for this noble act of charity. The maximum amount given was R20 and the minimum R2 per family. It may also be noted here that the Committee spent R1,000 to help the Potters and Koshtas of the Mungeli town, whose houses with all their belongings had been swept away by the high flood of the Agar river that took place on the 2nd August 1900.

* * * *

The year was not a healthy one for cattle. Owing to the scarcity of water and fodder their condition was very bad, especially during the hot season. Various kinds of cattle disease were more or less prevalent throughout the district. The number of deaths reported during the year is 47,940.

XIII.—DAMOH.

RAI BAHADUR LAKHMICHAND, *Honorary Secretary.*

After describing the formation of a District Committee the report goes on to say that there were formed two sub-committees to collect subscriptions and transact other business—one for the Damoh and the other for the Hatta Tahsil. The total amount of subscriptions realized and credited to the Fund amounted to R2,012-4-0.

The grants made by the Provincial Committee, Central Provinces Branch, Nagpur, amounted to R81,000, and thus the total amount, together with the local subscriptions at the disposal of the Committee, was R83,012-4-0.

Object I—Relief to weavers.—A sum of R6,515 was spent in giving aid to poor weavers, "kories," who were found starving for days together.

As soon as the news of distribution of the charitable fund money to malguzars and the tenants was spread, the "kories" of the district hastened to head-quarters without any call and made application to the Deputy Commissioner for help. The Committee, seeing the congregation and their pathetic state, proposed to spend R6,515 in giving relief to them throughout the district. This sum was not paid as charity, but they were paid in advance from time to time for the manufacture of cloth, and in return they (weavers) had to supply "*chauti thans*" at the rate of one *than* per rupee.

The amount of R6,515 spent under this head was distributed by Messrs. Damodar Rao, Raghuraj Singh of Hindoria, and the Tahsildar of Hatta. Mr. Damodar Rao distributed R2,700 and relieved 177 "kories" residing within the limits of Damoh Municipality, and R400 were distributed by Mr. Shankar Raghuraj Singh of Hindoria in giving aid to the 106 "kories" residing in Hindoria. In like manner the Tahsildar of Hatta relieved 439 weavers by spending R2,215. Thus the total number of "kories" relieved was 722 in all, and the amount spent on them amounted to R6,515, being an average of R9·02 per head.

These "*chauti thans*" were distributed in giving additional comforts to the inmates of kitchens opened by the Government at various centres in the district and to the paupers and respectable poor residing at the head-quarters and in the interior of the district.

The distribution of the cloth was made through the Tahsildars and Charge Officers.

In the midst of the operation two bales of cloth were received from the Provincial Committee, Central Provinces Branch, Nagpur. These bales contained 483 pieces of various kinds of cloth, *viz.*, "saries," "dhoties" and "chudders." One-third of the whole lot was sent to Hatta for distribution to the respectable poor and the rest was distributed to the respectable poor residing within the limits of Damoh Municipality.

Object III—Relief to respectable poor.—A sum of R2,484 was spent under this head and 927 persons in all were relieved. This sum was spent in giving aid to poor but respectable classes of people, who would not go to the kitchens or to work on relief works, through the members of the Charitable Fund Committee within the municipal town of Damoh and through the Tahsildars and Charge Officers in the interior of the district. The amount so distributed varied from R2 to R10 to each family according to the discretion of the distributing officers.

Object IV—Distribution of money for kharif sowings.—In April last the Provincial Committee, Central Provinces Branch, Nagpur, placed at the disposal of this Committee a grant of R6,000 for "kharif" sowings, which was subsequently supplemented by further grants during the months of May, June and July, and thus a total grant of R36,000 was made solely for kharif sowings. For the purpose of distributing this money the district was divided into 14 circles. Nearly the whole allotment was distributed by the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Charge Officers and the Tahsildars of both the tahsils in the above circles, with the exception of a sum of R2,500 which was distributed by Seth Keshori Lal, a member of the Committee, in Hindoria and Dhigsar Circles. Of the total sum expended under this head, a sum of R400 was paid to the "baries" (betel-leave growers) of Hindoria whose *pan* groves were destroyed accidentally by fire.

Grant for rabi seed.—In the latter portion of September last the Provincial Committee, Central Provinces Branch, made a further grant of R37,000 for rabi sowings, and

this entire sum was entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner for distribution through his Executive Officers.

Relief to petty shop-keepers.—A sum of R50-10-0 was paid to the needy tailors, who in return prepared shirts out of the "*chauti thans*." These shirts were distributed among the inmates of the various kitchens in the district.

This district stands under a great debt of gratitude to the benevolent donors in England and elsewhere, who out of sympathy and compassion saved this district in the present as well as in the terrible famine of 1897-98 by their liberal donations.

XIV.—NIMAR.

MR. J. WALKER, I.C.S., *Deputy Commissioner and President.*

Situation.—The rainfall of 1899 was so extraordinarily deficient that an almost complete failure of the crops was the result. Fortunately the previous agricultural history of the two principal tahsils of Khandwa and Burhanpur was, on the whole, good. The partial failure of the crops in 1896 was the only calamity that occurred for many years, and it had been followed by the bumper kharif harvest of 1897. In the Harsud Tahsil the conditions were however different. That tract at the time of settlement in 1894 had been largely a rabi-growing one, 70 per cent. of the area being under these crops. It had shared in the bad years for rabi which began from 1894, and cultivation had by 1899 decreased by some 11 per cent. The evil was, however, greater than that represented by the mere fall in area, as the proportion of rabi and kharif cultivation has become reversed, and the percentage of the more paying rabi cultivation was now only 30 as against 70 in 1894. Harsud had latterly been not quite so fortunate in its rainfall as the other two tahsils, and the comparatively paying kharif crops of cotton and tilli had bad outturns of 90 and 60 in 1898. Remission for part of the malguzari arears had had to be obtained in 1899. This tahsil also consisted largely of comparatively lately-established villages, many of these ryotwari ones inhabited by korkus, and credit generally was less there than in older established tracts. Lastly, the people were accustomed to rely largely on the early food-crops of maize, sawan, etc., about the period of September-October, and these crops had been practically an absolute failure.

3. *Private effort before formation of Committee.*—In Burhanpur early in August 1898 the local feeling was in favour of opening a cheap grain shop in the apprehension that prices of food-grains would rise rapidly. Subscriptions and donations amounting to R11,476-4-0 as per list appended were collected. Prices had just then commenced to rise and no time was lost in making purchases at the cheapest possible rates. The big wholesale dealers instead of subscribing in cash gave grain at rates varying from R1 to R2 a palla (or 120 seers) cheaper than the market rates. About 600 pallas were purchased from villages having large stocks and large purchases were made direct from Akola and Hyderabad through private agency, so as to save commission, etc. In all about 600 maunds were purchased and tickets issued to the deserving poor. Wheat juar and rice were sold from October 1899 to May 1900, generally from 2 to 2½ annas in the rupee cheaper than the market rates, which were thus steadied. As sales were restricted to ticket-holders the operations of the shop do not appear to have discouraged private trade and thus induced any rise in prices. The daily sale amounted to about 30 maunds. All subscriptions were returned out of the sale-proceeds. A surplus of R2,900 was contributed for the construction of a municipal office and fountain.

4. A private poor-house was also started in Burhanpur on the 3rd November with 10 inmates, and by the end of the month the numbers rose to over 65. It was supported by private subscriptions, the towns people giving clothes, money, grain and other necessaries. In December it was merged in the Government institution.

5. In February 1900 a public meeting was held and the towns people of Burhanpur undertook to support their respectable and *purda-nashin* women and supported them during the months of greatest distress, the numbers varying between 165 and 170 monthly. At this meeting Seth Tikamdas subscribed R500, which was eventually transferred to the Charitable Fund proper.

6. On the 21st January 1900, a public meeting of the chief residents of Khandwa was convened and a Committee formed, of which the Deputy Commissioner, who was present at the meeting, was elected the president. A list of persons who offered to pay donations and subscriptions to supplement Government relief in the town was drawn up. Subsequently it was added to largely. The total amount thus received was R867-8-0. The main object of the Committee, which was at first a purely local one, was to relieve the poor but respectable women in the town by monthly cash doles, exacting work in return from those fit to work in the shape of wheat-grinding, cotton-spinning, etc. The articles required for the work were purchased and supplied by the Committee, and the sale-proceeds of the outturn credited to their fund.

7. *Formation of Committee.*—On the 1st April 1900, a general meeting was held in Khandwa with a view to the formation of a District Committee and Sub-Committees.

* * * *

8. The sub-committee at Khandwa consisted of the members of the District Council, resident in the Khandwa Tahsil. In Burhanpur R. S. Balwant Rao Bhuskutte and the

members of the District Council resident in the Burhanpur Tahsil formed the sub-committee. In Harsud the formation of the sub-committee was only nominal. It comprised the members of the District Council in the Harsud Tahsil and Pandit Vinayak Rao, Thakur Nawal Singh and Seth Bakhtawarmal.

9. *Receipts.*—The total receipts of the fund are detailed below :—

	R	a.	p.
Remittance from the Provincial Committee	94,000	0	0
Local subscriptions	5,753	13	3
Other receipts	1,492	9	9
TOTAL	1,01,246	7	0

* * * *

13. The "other receipts" are not real. They consist of—

	R	a.	p.
Sale-proceeds of wheat flour	1,391	2	6
Refund of octroi duty	79	0	9
Transfer of amount from Charitable Fund of 1897	18	8	6
Sale-proceeds of hemp bags, etc.	3	14	0
TOTAL	1,492	9	9

14. *Expenditure.*—The total expenditure of the fund was—

	R	a.	p.
Under Object I	15,724	6	9
" " II	.....		
" " III	1,623	4	3
" " IV	78,659	5	6
Miscellaneous { Office expenditure	310	8	1
Miscellaneous { Other "	686	4	9
TOTAL	97,003	13	4

15. *Object I.*—Expenditure under Object I was incurred exclusively on clothing to the aged, the infirm and children. The clothing consisted of khadis, saris, markin cloth and blankets. Khadis and saris were purchased directly from the weaver-relief shop in Burhanpur at 2 annas per rupee less than cost price, while 176 pieces of markin cloth were obtained from Jubbulpore through the agency of the Rev. Dr. F. R. Felt of the American Mission and 200 more from Bombay through Seth Champalal of Khandwa, as also 7,551 blankets through the latter agency from Rutlam and Mundlesar. On receipt of the cloth and blankets the number of persons entitled to the grant thereof in each famine charge was ascertained and the number of pieces available was made over to each Charge Officer accordingly for distribution. The distribution was the largest in the Khandwa Tahsil while in Harsud and Burhanpur it was about the same.

* * * *

When the poor-house at Khandwa ceased to be a famine relief institution a sum of R300 was given to the Civil Surgeon to meet the expenses of the treatment of the sick paupers that could not by then be disposed of.

16. *Object II.*—No expenditure was incurred under this head.

17. *Object III.*—As stated before, the well-to-do residents of Khandwa and Burhanpur undertook in January and February, respectively, to relive the respectable and *parda-nashin* women in their towns. In April 1900 when the District Committee of the Charitable Fund was formed, the funds of the Khandwa local committee were merged into the general fund, but the people of Burhanpur continued to administer their funds as a separate body. Thus expenditure under Object III was confined to the town of Khandwa and amounted to only R287-8-0.

* * * *

18. The system of relief under this object was briefly this. Wheat was purchased in the market and deposited with the Secretary to the Sub-Committee at Khandwa, Mr. Govind Rao Mandloi. It was given out by him to the respectable and *parda-nashin* women who were fit for work for grinding at the rate of 28 seers per week. Some women came to receive the grain, while in the case of others it had to be sent to their homes. After the expiry of the week they brought or sent the flour to the Secretary, who after weighment received it and gave out another 28 seers each for the next week. In case a women failed to bring the flour after the expiry of the week, she was fined at the rate of 8 annas per week for each day, but if she did her task regularly she was paid at the rate of R2 a month. The accumulated flour was sold in the market or in the famine-relief camps at the rates prevailing there. This arrangement operated as a useful test in the case of those fit to work, but unable to go abroad for the purpose, and appears to have worked well.

19. *Object IV.*—By far the largest amount was spent under Object IV, *viz.*, R78,659-5-6 out of a total expenditure of R97,003-13-4 or 81 per cent. Preliminary lists of cultivators entitled to help from the fund were prepared by Circle Officers. From these lists the Charge Officers were ordered to select the most deserving cases by actual enquiry and to issue pay orders to them. Convenient centres were then selected and notice given of the appointed time of distribution. The results of the previous enquiries

as to actual needs of individual cultivators were also checked by them from the village papers and the leading men of the village at the time of distribution. It was also ordered that if the sum available for grants permitted it, assistance for bullock-power may also be given, but such grants were rare.

20. At the time of making grants for seed-grain and bullock-power no allotment for food-grain to agriculturists while engaged in the field was possible, but subsequently a sum of R30,000 was received. This, added to the balance of R4,000 from the previous allotment, was distributed through the Charge Officers and enabled additional numbers to receive help for seed-grain and also enabled help to be given for food-grain to those who had already received small grants. Owing to the holding off of the rains many who had received seed-grain assistance had eaten it up and the additional grant was of much service.

21. Of the R4,000 contributed by the Rev. Dr. F. R. Felt, R2,683-1-6 were distributed through the Charge Officers as supplementary grants to ruined agriculturists.

22. Rupees 6,900 were also distributed as seed-grain for rabi in special localities on the lines laid down for the kharif allotments.

* * * *

24. *Miscellaneous.*—Miscellaneous expenditure comprises all expenditure beyond the scope of the four objects. It amounted to R996-12-10 as per details below :—

	R	a.	p.
Pay of establishment	210	6	1
Printing charges	70	4	0
Conveyance charges of cloth and blankets	405	3	0
Other charges	310	15	9
TOTAL	996	12	10

The printing charges represent entirely the cost of printing pay orders for grants under Object IV. The conveyance charge of cloth and blankets include packing charges, railway freight and cart-hire on consignments received by the District Committee of the Fund, as also re-packing charges and railway freight or cart-hire or both on packages sent to Charge Officers by the District Committee. The other charges include a refund of R200-10-0 made to the Rev. Dr. F. R. Felt as unexpended balance of the R4,000 contributed by him for charitable purposes. They of course include office contingencies also.

XV.—BETUL.

MR. KRISHNA RAO, *Honorary Secretary*

After describing the formation of the District Committee the report proceeds: Betul was one of the districts which suffered most from the severity of the recent famine, the number of persons relieved in different ways being at one time nearly 1½ lakhs. The amounts estimated for Objects Nos. I and IV were respectively R20,000 and R2,45,000. Of the latter R1,95,000 had been estimated for kharif and R50,000 for rabi sowings.

In forming these estimates the circumstances of the district and its people were duly taken into consideration. The amounts received from the Executive Committee were as follows :—

	R
For Object No. I	15,000
„ No. IV (Kharif)	1,11,000
„ No. IV (Rabi)	52,000
TOTAL	1,78,000

Distribution of money for Object IV.—Charitable takavi grants were distributed through Charge Officers, Extra-Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars and their Naibs, the Forest Divisional Officers, and the Rev. K. A. Iwar of the Swedish Mission, Nimpani. Preliminary lists of persons to whom the money was to be distributed were drawn up by the patwaris for their respective circles. To each distributing officer a certain number of circles had been assigned. The sanctioned allotment both for kharif and rabi was divided between the distributing officers in consideration of the extent to which charitable relief was necessary to each circle. Arrangements were made to enable the distributing officers to draw the sums allotted to them from the nearest treasury, so that they may be enabled to distribute the money within each circle with as little inconvenience and trouble to the recipients as possible.

The system of issuing pay orders was not considered by the Committee to be quite suited to this district, but the dates fixed for distribution were as near the time at which the tenantry actually required money for seed and bullocks as they could possibly be.

For the guidance of the officers entrusted with the work of the distribution of charitable money for kharif sowings the Committee issued the following instructions :—

In villages where relief was given through the Forest Department the Charge Officer or the distributing officer to be allowed to give four annas to eight annas for seed to men having makka baris only. These will of course get no *podga* or *khawai*. In other villages the minimum area to be helped will be five acres.

Exceptional cases to be left to the discretion of the distributing officer. The maximum doles to be fixed at ₹18, except where a bullock was to be given, when it might be more.

The distributing officers were also directed to see that ordinarily the grant allowed to a tenant was so fixed as to enable him to have as much area sown as should secure to his family the lowest quantity of grain required for one year.

As regards the distribution of money for rabi sowings the Committee desired that distributing officers should bear the following points in mind :—

(*a*) Nothing should be given in the Shahpur ilaqua, where a lot of tilli is sown, and also in villages where rabi was pretty fair last year.

(*b*) The maximum to be paid to a tenant should not exceed ₹20.

(*c*) Each tenant should get ₹5 per area for land prepared up to 4 acres.

(*d*) A tenant who had no kharif and is dependent on rabi should ordinarily get the maximum of ₹20.

(*e*) Nothing should be given for bullocks.

The distribution of money for kharif sowings began about the 15th of June last, and by the end of July the major part of the allotment was distributed, what little remained having been distributed in the following month. Timely instructions were issued to village mukaddams, patwaris and kotwars to see that the money received was applied to the purpose for which it had been paid and to report at once any cases in which there had been a misuse of the charitable grant. The distribution of money for rabi sowings commenced towards the end of September and lasted till the end of the following month. Every care was taken to see that tenants not eligible for Government loans, and those who were too poor to receive help from other sources, received as much help from private charity as the funds at our disposal could allow, having at the same time due regard to the agricultural needs of the recipients concerned.

The approximate number of members of the ryots' families helped with charitable money was 85,520, and the approximate area sown by the tenants who were so helped was —

	Acres.
Kharif	114,400·58
Rabi	16,220·79
TOTAL	130,621·37

These figures were supplied by the distributing officers. The Committee have had no complaints as to misuse of the charitable money by the persons to whom the doles were paid.

Expenditure on Object I.—The total amount spent in the purchase of clothes and blankets was ₹20,376-6-0, the details of the expenditure being as follows:—

	₹	a.	p.
(1) 3,000 dhutis	3,468	12	0
(2) 1,001 khadis	937	8	0
(3) 20,300 blankets	15,970	2	0
TOTAL	20,376	6	0

In addition to the blankets purchased from the Charitable Fund, the Committee received the following gifts :—

From Cawnpore Woollen Mills	1,000 blankets.
From the Rev. Mr. Lewis, Korku Mission, Bainsdehi	40 „

The latter also made a gift of 36 khadis. For the gift of the 1,000 Cawnpore Woollen Mills' blankets the Committee are indebted to Mrs. Standen and the President, Mr. Standen, for their kind exertions in securing such a munificent help to the Charitable Fund, which has resulted in saving about ₹1,000.

The distribution of clothes and blankets was made by Charge officers, to whom supplies were sent in proportion to the number of persons on village and kitchen relief in their circles. The 1,000 Cawnpore blankets were supplied to persons on cash gratuitous village relief who were relieved at their own homes, and did not attend kitchens. Clothes and blankets of the value of ₹1,000 were distributed among persons on Public Works Department camps and the rest to persons on village and kitchen relief.

The blankets and clothes were purchased from local contractors at cheap rates as per sample approved of by the Committee.

Remarks by MR. B. P. STANDEN, I.C.S., C.I.E., *Deputy Commissioner.*

With the object of giving the recipients early and accurate information of the amount which they would receive for kharif sowings, the system of "Chittis" was followed. In the circles taken up by the five distributors who had no famine relief duties to perform, "chittis" were given for almost the whole amount. In other circles the proportion of the

total allotments for which chittis were given was smaller. But the system was followed, as far as possible, everywhere. The selection of applicants and distribution of chittis began early in May. The payments were made, as far as possible, between 25th May and 7th June, the latter date being that on which the sun passes into the constellation of "Mirg," when the sowing season in normal years should begin. Officers who had much famine-relief work to look after began to pay earlier, but no money was paid before May 15th, and it was nearly all given out by June 7th. The patwaris' lists formed the basis for the distributing officers' enquiry, but they were carefully checked with the assistance of the respectable persons of the village, and many alterations were made in the original lists.

The general rule issued by the local Committee for the guidance of the distributing officers was that R10 was, as a rule, to be the maximum for seed and R5 for podga, these amounts being under ordinary circumstances sufficient to enable the cultivator to produce enough grain to feed his family for the year and to feed himself when the crop is on the ground. But as many cultivators in the jungly villages have other means of livelihood besides cultivation, they habitually sow less than the quantity of seed which could be purchased for the maximum of R10, and the distributors were therefore directed to enquire about how much land the recipients usually sowed and to give them only enough to sow so much land. Little money was given for bullocks, because poor cultivators habitually hire bullocks from the gowlis for a grain payment at harvest time. A couple of rupees extra sufficed to provide the grain required to pay the hire.

A part of the money given was not properly used. This is scarcely to be wondered at, seeing that owing to the delay in the arrival of the monsoon, sowings were delayed in most places for three weeks and the cultivators had consequently to wait for the produce three weeks longer than was anticipated. But I do not think that much of the doles given for seed was used for food except in a few villages in the jungles on the Berar border, where the inhabitants knowing that whether they sowed their land or not they could always make a living in the Berars, and preferred to squander their doles in riotous living. Several officers found (and I noticed this myself also) that a good many cultivators used the whole allotment, including the food-grain money, for seed and bullocks, trusting that they would be brought on relief if they had nothing to eat. A large number of such cultivators had to be put on relief at the jungle village depôts or on the B. list.

The distributing officers were, as a rule, too careful in selecting applicants and in cutting down the doles to the minimum required, as is shown by the fact that although the whole of the kharif allotment was not spent, the total kharif area is considerably below normal in the district as a whole in spite of a large increase in the good open villages. The whole of this balance would have been used for the rabi sowings, if the rains had not ceased abruptly a week or ten days earlier than usual, so that a large part of the rabi land was dry before it could be sown. The chitti system could not be utilized for the rabi distributions, because the amount of the allotment was intimated too late. Sowing generally begins in this district in the first week of October and all the money ought to have been distributed by the 15th October; but as, owing to the delay in the communication of the allotment, work could not begin till just at the end of September, the distribution of the allotment was not complete till the end of October.

Seventeen thousand one hundred and four tenants received allotments (some received doles for both harvest) and the average individual allotment was about R9. One hundred and thirty thousand six hundred and twenty-one acres ought to have been sown with the doles made, according to the calculations made by the distributing officers, but so much as this was not sown and indeed could not have been sown with the amount distributed, considering the price of seed at sowing time. Several of the distributing officers had no knowledge of matters connected with agriculture, and in spite of detailed instructions on the subject, they have apparently miscalculated the kharif area which ought to have been sown with the doles given out. The cost of seed for an acre of land was approximately as below at sowing time—

Juar	8 annas
Kodon	2 rupees.
Kutki	3 "
Jagni	8 annas

or an average of about R1-8-0 per acre. Allowing for podga (food-grain) money, I do not think more than about 55,000 of kharif could be sown with the money advanced for kharif. The rabi area is rightly stated as 16,220 acres, at R4 per acre, and the total that ought to have been sown was probably about 70,000 to 75,000 acres. Probably the money misused cancels out against the amount of food-grain money used for seed, and it is probable that the area actually sown with the doles is about 70,000 acres out of a total area actually sown in the district (as per special kharif girdwari) of 382,673·34 acres.

XVI.—WARDHA.

MR. KRISHNA RAO DESHMUKH, *Honorary Secretary.*

Though not so severe as in some of the other districts of these Provinces, the famine of 1896-97 had made itself felt in the Wardha District. Fortunately the year following it

was a year of an all-round good harvest, the kharif crops being bumper ones and rabi being fairly good. The next year kharif was no better than a fair average; but rabi crops, upon which the staying power of the cultivators specially of the Hinganghat Tahsil and partly of the Wardha and Arvi Tahsils rests, were bad throughout the district. The scars left by the last famine coupled with the cycle of bad seasons previous to it had not healed up to an appreciable extent, when another and a still greater famine overtook the district in 1899. Up to the middle of September the autumn crops held out prospects of fair outturn in part of the district, but when the latter half of the month passed by rainless, the crop over three-fourths of the district withered entirely, and prices began to rise. The price of juari went up from 24 seers towards the middle of August to 10 seers towards the end of September. October and November passed by without rains, and succeeding months were equally dry. All hopes of a spring crop were gone. Three-fourths of the district was deprived of both harvests, and autumn crops deteriorated considerably in the remaining portions. The mahua crop, which was of great use to the poor people in the hot season of the last famine, was a complete failure. The mango crop also shared the same fate. No edible fruits were also available.

The labouring classes, who had had no agricultural employment throughout the rainy season and were living by selling grass, began to feel the pinch. The growth of grass was already stunted in consequence of scanty rainfall and prolonged breaks, and whatever had sprung out dried up by the middle of September.

The famine of 1899-1900 affected the poor and the rich alike, principally the agriculturists and petty traders. Two-thirds of the population had to live on an inferior diet to which they were not accustomed. Fortunately owing to imports the prices did not rise to the pitch of the previous famine. The majority of the malguzars and tenants had very little stock of grain of their own, nor had they capital to buy it with.

To add to the gravity of the situation these grievous crop failures were accompanied by scarcity of fodder and of water. The scarcity of water began to be felt early in August. Over a large portion of the district scarcely a blade of grass was to be seen outside the Government forest. Prompt measures were taken to save the cattle. The Government forests in the district were left open to free grazing early in August, but soon the sources of water-supply began to fail. By the end of November no water could be had in the forest, and all the available fodder had been used up. Generally people had to send their surplus cattle to other districts. To fill up the cup of their miseries as it were, fire broke out in some of the villages, and whatever little these already distressed, people had was reduced to ashes. They were rendered homeless. The Government promptly came to their help and supplied them with timber free of charge.

The condition of the people of the district was so deplorable that notwithstanding the gigantic preparations made by the Administration to alleviate distress, there was a very wide field for distribution of charitable relief apart from State relief.

Early in October cheap grain-shops were started at Wardha, Deoli and Pulgaon, and food-grain sold at a price lower than the ordinary bazar rate. For a defrayal of the expense connected with these shops, the mahajans and other respectable gentlemen of these places had agreed to pay eight annas per bags of food-grain exported by them. This was subsequently reduced to four annas. These cheap grain shops were very readily availed of and resorted to by those who were reluctant to accept any relief from the State or from any charitably disposed person. In all there were 11 such shops opened. The rules that were framed at Nagpur for issue of grain were adopted here with a few modifications so as to suit local wants. The Pulgaon shop was throughout conducted from the voluntary contributions made by mahajans. Almost all these shops were managed and conducted by non-officials.

Distribution of blankets, dhoties and clothes.—In the Wardha town and in the Wardha kitchen, as well as in the Inzala relief camp, the distribution was made by me in company with Messrs. R. V. Paranjpe, Shanker Rao Deshpand, Mukund Rao, Krishna Rao and Vinayek Rao.

In the muffasil it was entrusted to the Tashildars and the Charge Officers and other local gentlemen of influence

Money dole.—At Wardha charitable money doles were distributed by Messrs. Kelker, Municipal President; D. N. Khare, Secretary, District Council and Vice-Chairman of the District Committee; P. G. Paranjpe, Pleader and Member of the District Council, and Krishna Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, and Mukund Rao, who were also in charge of the distribution of the Government village relief in the Wardha town.

The Tahsildars and Charge Officers were entrusted with the distribution of money doles in the muffasil.

Selections.—The officers concerned were asked to make selections of the deserving persons whom the State relief could not reach under the rules. The lists showing the names of persons so selected, together with the circumstances justifying their admission, were submitted to the District Committee. These lists after discussion were revised and the names of the persons so selected were entered in the register kept in the office of the District Committee.

Free grants to cultivators.—Arrangements were made in May through Deputy Commissioner for preparation of lists of those who were fit recipients for charity grants. These lists were prepared along with those prepared for takavi loans. Full instructions were issued as to how the recipients were to be selected. The lists had been read by the

middle of May. Actual distribution was started early in June 1900. Services of Munsiffs and Tahsildars were utilized. The preliminary lists had to be considerably changed and enlarged at the time of distribution. In May when these were prepared, no takavi had been allotted for cattle. It was therefore proposed to give help from the charity funds. The charity lists were revised. In May several poor tenants were found absent from their villages, most of them having joined the relief work. Some were gone to Chanda and others to other districts to bring back their surviving cattle at the beginning of rains after the first heavy fall of rain. Many of these, being in a state of exhaustion, died on their way back. There was a rush of applicants when distribution was started and previous lists underwent a number of changes. After the distribution the payments made by the distributing officers were checked by the Assistant Commissioner and Mr. Jaikrishna Pant Bhake, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, when large sums were found to have been given out of charity, portions of these converted into takavi, and more tenants than before were thus helped with the charity grants. The distributing officers were helped by private gentlemen of influence and position.

Distribution of free grass.—To meet the wants of the people grass depôts were established at Wardha and Pulgaon. There were many poor tenants who could not afford to pay for the price of grass and could not avail themselves of the grass depôts owing to their abject poverty. In order to give gratuitous relief in the shape of grass to these destitute tenants, grass worth R3,495-9-2 was distributed gratis. The distribution of grass was made under the supervision of Mr. S. Zakir Ali, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, at the Wardha Depôt, and by Mr. Khair, Naib Tahsildar, at the Pulgaon Depôt. About 682 cattle were thus saved.

Relief to those broken down by destruction of their houses by flood.—As fire had done its work of destruction and deepened distress, so flood did the same and caused damage to those poor men who were already suffering from acute distress. Appeal was made to the Committee to relieve these persons, and the Committee gave an amount of R500 to enable them to make a start in life.

Area sown with free grants.—It is not possible to estimate the area sown with these free grants. Some of them have been spent on subsistence of the cultivators between sowing and harvest time and some have been spent on the purchase of bullocks. It may, however, be safely assumed that out of 818,575 acres of land put under kharif crops, 140,000 acres were sown with the help of the Charity Fund.

The Charitable Fund has done immense good to the poor people. With its help the naked were clothed, the hungry were fed, and the broken-down agriculturists were given a new start in life. Though they did not make any public manifestations to express their sense of gratitude, still, for what was done for them, their faces did not fail to give an unmistakable proof of feelings of deep gratitude. Some of those who were outspoken gave vent to their feelings by invoking the blessings of the Almighty on the Government and on those who had devoted themselves to the work of relief.

XVII.—BALAGHAT.

MR. M. M. MULLNA, *Honorary Secretary.*

That the famine of 1899-1900, following, as it did, so closely on the heels of the famine of 1896-97, was far severer than its predecessor is clear from the fact that the people scarcely had any breathing time to recover the ground lost. The crops during the intervening period were fairly good, but owing to the great shrinkage of the area under crop, no progress could be made. The present famine was caused by the total failure of the September and October rains, which are of the greatest importance to this rice-growing district.

The total rainfall of the year was about 32 inches only against a normal of 65, of which the months of June, July and August received about 29, while September and October had only 1·5 as against an average of 11 inches required. The following figures will give an idea of the severity of the present famine as compared with the famine of 1896-97:—

Maximum number of persons on all kinds of relief during the famine	. 134,894 or 35 per cent. of the total population.
Do. do. during the last famine	. 69,582 or 18·15 do. do.
The usual normal area cropped is	. 492,295
Area cropped this famine 1899-1900	. 287,020
Do. last famine 1896-97	. 370,813
Do. in 1897-98	. 332,761
Do. 1898-99	. 373,423
The average outturn for the year 1897-98	. 12 annas
Do. do. 1898-99	. 11 to 12 annas

That so large a percentage as 35·1 of the population had at one time to seek relief from Government shows clearly that this famine has touched a higher class of people. Indeed, in not a few cases were some of the co-sharers in malguzari villages seen on relief works in the capacity of mates, etc., and not a few of them had to be helped from the Charitable Fund.

* * * * *

The most hard-hit part of the district was the Katangi-Kasola pargana where the rains held off from a very early period, and where, even in favourable seasons, the rains are more or less unseasonable and precarious, and the soil too is not of the best.

* * * *

While the Government relief measures were being matured, the malguzars in a few cases had of their own accord started tank work, etc., in the Katangi-Kasoli pargana and in some parts of Baihar. The Baihar missionaries also worked zealously, administering relief, maintaining kitchens (for a period) and making gifts of cloth and blankets. One or two cases of malguzars having distributed clothes on their own account have also been reported, and doubtless others also, unknown, may have done their best in those times of stress.

* * * *

After describing the formation of a general committee and its affiliation to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Central Provinces Branch, the report goes on to say that an executive sub-committee composed of—

(1) J. T. Martin, Esq., I. C. S., *President*,
(2) Dr. Chowdhari, Civil Medical Officer, and
(3) Mr. M. M. Mulna, *Secretary*,

was appointed.

* * * *

The total amount received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was ₹1,32,500 as against ₹3,31,540 of the last famine. The Government takavi for agricultural loans was this year ₹2,20,000 as against ₹2,28,557 of the last preceding famine. Thus, though the severity of the famine this year was greater and there was more scope for beneficially utilising charity grants, the amounts actually placed at the disposal of the Committee and available for affording relief were considerably less than those during the preceding famine. The effect of all this is seen in the limited area (288,095 acres) cropped this year, *i. e.*, 1900-1901, an area considerably less than the area cropped in the year 1897-98.

* * * *

Object I.—Under this head relief was given in the shape of clothes, blankets and such medical comforts as were needed. With the excellent arrangements which prevailed in the various kitchens and on the relief works, and the good physique maintained by the people and a low and almost normal death-rate, there was very little scope this famine for the latter kind of relief, *viz.*, medical comforts, etc.

Blankets and Clothes.—Rupees 6,808-8-8 were spent on blankets, relieving about 5,500 persons. The average price of blankets was ₹1-3-6, and the blankets distributed were of the kind usually used by the common people here, *viz.*, kamblies.

There is no doubt that this sort of relief and the relief afforded by the distribution of clothes was the means of warding off and alleviating much suffering on account of the inclemency of weather. This was no small adjunct to the adequate and generous relief afforded by the Government to the people on relief works, gratuitous relief, kitchens, etc., and may be considered as a factor in keeping down the death-rate in the district and maintaining the good physique of the people. The need for this kind of relief was great, and the utmost that could be done with the limited amount at our disposal for the purpose was effected in the most economical way possible. From all that I hear and have seen, these gifts of clothes and blankets were much appreciated by the people. The manifestation of gratitude, though not expressed in words, was signified by the recipient making obeisance to the giver, as is the custom of the people.

Rupees 4,984-3-0 were spent on clothes, relieving about 8,506 persons. All the cloth (except one bale of cloth kindly sent as free gift by the Honorary Secretary, Central Provinces Committee) was locally purchased from within the district, thus affording indirect relief to the weaver class of the district. Care was taken to purchase the *saris* and *dhoties* from such weavers as stood in need of relief, and no purchases were made from middlemen, but all were made direct from the poor and hard-pressed weavers. In one part of the district, namely, Hatta pargana, it was deemed advisable to make advances to some of the weavers, and these advances were recouped in the shape of clothes taken from them. In this way about 765 weavers were helped indirectly in the various parts of the district.

Again, some of the dhoties purchased were cut up and made into shirts for children. Shirts were given to be sewn to respectable persons at head-quarters. In this way about 2,180 shirts were sewn and distributed. The average price of dhoti purchased was Ro-10-0 and that of sari was ₹1-2-0.

* * * *

Object VI.—The Committee husbanded all their resources for this great and most important part of their operations, knowing, as they did, that the amount ultimately available for this purpose would, in view of our need, be small.

Rupees 1,05,100 were distributed for kharif seed and bullocks, relieving 10,233 tenants and ₹21,119 were distributed for rabi, relieving 6,833 tenants. Thus a total of ₹1,26,219

was spent on this object, *i. e*, 95.33 per cent. of the total amount received from the Central Provinces Executive Committee.

* * * *

The utmost care and caution was taken in the selection of proper tenants and the lists prepared by the Patwaris and Revenue Inspectors were checked by the distributing officers before the money was given out. The Deputy Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner and President, Charitable Fund Commitee, the Forest Divisional Officer (who personally distributed R3,000 in the forest villages of the district), Extra-Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars and Charge Officers were the persons through whom the amount was distributed, and with such an agency for distribution, the risk of peculation on the part of Patwaris and others was reduced to a minimum, and the whole amount distributed reached the persons for whom it was intended.

The highest amount given for kharif and bullocks was R36, and the lowest was R6. For rabi R15 and R8 were the figures respectively. Amounts as low as Ro-8-o were given in parts of Baihar Tashil for such small seeds as sarso, urad, linseed, etc., a small quantity of which helps to sow a comparatively large area. The total area under seed this year is 288,095 acres as against a normal average of 492,295 acres. Out of this approximately an area of 25,000 to 30,000 acres must have been sown by the help from the charitable funds. The outturn of this was about a 12-anna crop in almost all parts of the district, except the Katangi-Kasola ilaka, where again the rains were scanty and unseasonable. The outlook for this part of the district is most gloomy, and it is feared that something again will have to be done for this part of the district in the shape of relief, etc. As regards rabi, what with the cloudy weather prevailing and hailstorm, the prospect is anything but re-assuring (this was written on 17th February 1901). It must take many good harvests to restore normal condition. So much has been the havoc done by the last two famines and a succession of indifferent harvests.

An inconsiderable quantity of seed-grain on account of charitable fund was this time imported into Baihar. Local grain-dealers were called and explained that an amount of R41,000 for charitable grant and R49,750 for takavi would be distributed in the Baihar plateau, and they arranged to have seed-grain ready there. Thus, on the whole' the needs of the plateau were well provided for and no difficulty was experienced by the recipients of the charitable fund in procuring seed.

The scanty rainfall and the failure of crops created a scarcity of water-supply and fodder, but the Government opened up their forests free of charge to agriculturists and people and also for cattle grazing and removing of head-loads of grass, fuel, etc., and further arranged to stock fodder at various places and depôts (about 18 centres in the district) throughout the district, and this helped a great deal. However, much cattle disease prevailed in all parts of the district and much of the high mortality is due to that fact, and very little of the total may be attributed to want of fodder and water. There are no reliable figures available for cattle mortality of the district, but the following figures show the total number of cattle in the district of the description stated, at the end of the years mentioned :—

Description.	Years.			
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Bull Bullocks	93,870	84,683	84,641	86,924
Male buffaloes	13,821	14,345	14,706	14,772
Calves and buffalo calves . . .	33,317	41,799	43,038	41,541
Total .	141,008	140,827	142,435	143,237

In the year 1899-1900 the cattle (agricultural) mortality is estimated at about 10,000, attributed chiefly to cattle disease.

How economically the fund has been administered will be seen from the following figures: Miscellaneous expenditure, consisting of railway freight and cartage, amounted to R135-3-0 or only '1 of the total amount received. The office establishment cost only R87, an insignificant amount less than '06 of the whole amount received.

* * * *

It is a matter for considerable satisfaction and a sure indication of the useful and beneficial purpose to which the money has been put in this district, that the death-rate has been almost normal throughout, and in no inconsiderable degree may this be attributed to the help rendered by the charity-money so generously placed at the disposal of this Committee.

In conclusion, my Committee beg to express, on behalf of the people of this district, their heartfelt gratitude to the subscribers of the fund, and to your Committee for having placed at their disposal the necessary funds, whereby much suffering has been alleviated and great benefit conferred on the tenant class, who have been set up on their legs once more and who, but for the charity grants, must have indubitably gone under. It is impossible to realise what would have been the the condition of the people and state of affairs, had not the people received the benefit of the generous-hearted beneficence of the subscribers.

REPORT BY THE HONORARY SECRETARY, PUNJAB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 28TH FEBRUARY 1901.

PART I.—INTRODUCTORY.

"The rain may come but it cannot restore the past."

Introductory.

These were among the opening words addressed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to a public meeting in the Lawrence Hall, Lahore, assembled for the purpose of selecting a Committee for the administration of charitable relief in the Punjab. The rain did not come, and the very severe famine, which seemed to be impending, grew to be a reality. This famine was not so widespread as the last, but unfortunately it made up in intensity for any want of extension. More or less suffering and privation there must be everywhere when prices range abnormally high. Acute distress was, however, mainly confined to the Delhi Division, notably the Hissár and Rohtak Districts. Both men and cattle were hard hit; while in Karnál, Gurgáon, in the Shakargarh Tahsil of the Lahore District and in the Ráwalpindi Division, particularly in the district of Jhelum, the losses of live-stock were enormous.

Formation of Executive Committee.

At the public meeting held at the Lawrence Hall, Lahore, an Executive Committee was elected: this Committee appointed Mr. D. P. Masson, C.I.E., as Chairman, and Messrs. E. B. Francis, C.S., retired, and M. L. Waring, C.S., as Joint Secretaries. Its business was to arrange for the collection and distribution of subscriptions. In January a general letter was sent by the Executive Committee to all Deputy Commissioners asking them to consider the desirability of forming local committees for the collection and distribution of funds. It was suggested that such committees, when formed, should affiliate themselves to the Punjab Executive Committee. They were requested to sent in estimates of their requirements; and, to facilitate the framing of estimates, the following were taken as the recognised heads of expenditure:—

(i) Provision of food and clothing for the week by way of supplement to the minimum relief afforded by Government.

(ii) Maintenance of orphans.

(iii) Relief of the respectable poor.

The maxim '*De non apparentibus et de non existentibus eadem est ratio*' is probably less true of the poor in India than anywhere else. There are many who are ashamed to beg, and are either unable or not permitted to dig. *Purda* women are the most prominent among these. Old military pensioners, too, figure in this class.

(iv) Restoration of the destitute.

This was the most important head of all. The famine wage would keep a peasant from starvation, but he could not buy seed, bullocks and ploughs with it; and without some sort of capital he would not be in a position to take advantage of the rain when it did fall. Government would grant liberal *taccavi* on security. The charitable fund would make a gift to those, and there were many who could give little or no security. It would also set upon their legs artisans who had been compelled to part with the implements of their trade.

Deputy Commissioners promptly responded. With one or two exceptions, even districts where there was no real distress contributed to the general fund. Local committees were formed, money collected, and estimates sent in. The Executive Committee met from time to time at Lahore and made the necessary allotments. The amount subscribed in the Province was R2,68,793-14-8. The Central Committee of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund at Calcutta allotted to the Punjab R11,25,000 besides R1,30,000 for Native States. Of the latter sum only R11,500 were required by Native States and R1,18,500 were returned to Calcutta. Of the former R1,31,500 were returned, leaving a small balance in hand which will be returned as soon as accounts are closed.

The total expenditure under the four heads is given below:—

	R	*a.*	*p.*
I	20,797	13	8
II	20,878	15	9
III	91,529	4	1
IV	11,08,467	9	9
Miscellaneous	4,561	6	7
TOTAL	12,46,235	1	10

There are one or two points on which the experience gained in this famine is worth noting. The classification of expenditure under four heads is not comprehensive enough. The Famine Commission have adopted a fifth head, covering expenditure incurred on those persons who would have received Government relief had they been living in a locality officially notified as affected. It would be well for future charitable committees to do the same. Indigent Bikaniris and all classes of poverty-stricken persons, not in receipt of Government relief and yet not falling within the definition of "respectable poor" would come under this head. Gifts of fodder, too, to keep cattle alive, would not seem to come under any recognized head, and it might be better to allow this form of relief a column to itself.

These matters are not vital perhaps, but anything that really makes things clearer is important.

As regards Bikaniri wanderers, the problem presented by swarms of these mendicants in Punjab towns is a very difficult one. On the whole, the Committee were inclined to discourage any liberal treatment of them except in the shape of providing them with means to go back to their homes.

The best method of supplying fodder would appear to be by cash grants, leaving the zamindar to make his own arrangements. Perhaps he is right in thinking that he can make a better bargain for himself than anyone else can make for him. The plan of buying fodder and offering it for sale at half price is impracticable, since those who are without fodder are equally destitute of money.

The Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak tried buying cattle and lending them out, but he could get no one to look after them.

The cheap-grain-shop system requires most careful supervision; and this is not easy to secure.

In making gifts for purchase of cattle and seed two modes of procedure are possible; either to distribute Government *taccávi* and money from the fund at the same time, announcing at a later date the names of the persons from whom repayment will not be required; or to select the recipients of charitable relief beforehand, and let them know that what is being given to them is a gift and not a loan. The latter plan was adopted in Hissár, while other Deputy Commissioners distributed first and selected afterwards.

At a meeting held at Barnes Court on July 18th, 1900, with a view to deciding the course of action to be taken in future measures of relief by Government on the one hand and by the administrators of the Charitable Relief Fund on the other (not a meeting of the Executive Committee, though the Chairman and other members of the Provincial Committee were present), the following resolution was passed:—

12. 'That the meeting realize that District Officers and local Committees must not be unduly hurried, and must be allowed plenty of time to decide who are the persons best entitled to receive gifts from the Charitable Fund. If, however, the lists which they have had prepared are sufficiently complete to enable them to decide this beforehand, there is no object in concealing it. On the contrary it may be advisable to give it out as soon as possible, so that the people may fully realize that such gifts come from the charitable public and not from Government. In any case whether or not it is possible at once to declare the names of the recipients of gifts the local officers should be careful to explain publicly that such gifts as are now made or hereafter declared are provided from the Charitable Fund and not from Government Revenues. If it is impossible before the distribution of the money to determine all who should receive gifts, but possible to determine a certain number, it would probably be as well for the local officers to announce the gifts to the latter and to explain that it requires time to decide who the other persons shall be whose loans will be converted into gifts at the expense of the Charitable Fund."

The views here expressed were adopted by the Committee.

Mr. E. B. Francis resigned his Joint-Secretaryship in March 1900 on his return to England, since which time the whole burden of collecting and distributing funds has been borne by the Chairman.

Proceedings of the Committee and statements of accounts will be found in the Appendices.

M. L. WARING,
Honorary Secretary.

PART II.—THE WORK OF DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

DELHI.

"Delhi City and Delhi District," writes the Commissioner, "fortunately escaped famine, though there was a good deal of distress in both, which in a certain number of cases became acute."

Rupees 37,280-15-0 were collected.

Rupees 10,762-1-0 were spent locally, and the balance was remitted to the General Fund.

A daily average of 556 women was relieved for five months, at an average cost per head per month of R 0-11-6, by the issue of grain rations free to those unable to work, and by provision of paid labour in the shape of spinning and plain sewing to the efficient. "Spinning," says the Delhi Report, "was found to be neither popular nor remunerative." Plain sewing was an interesting experiment, and given a sufficient number of supervisors, it probably constitutes the best form of famine labour for women of the more respectable classes. The products of the experiment were, however, more picturesque than useful.

An excellent piece of work was the railing of immigrants to the stations nearest their homes as soon as news came of rain in Rajputana. Some 2,500 were sent off at an average cost per head of R1-6-0.

The heavy rains of September damaged a great many houses in the city. The Rev. S. S. Thomas, Honorary Secretary, and Khan Muhammad Hasan Khan visited over 900 houses and personally distributed R4,598.

The good work done by the Rev. S. S. Thomas of the Baptist Mission, Miss Williams and Miss Bate of the same Mission, Miss Byam of the S. P. G. Mission, and Lala Ganesh Das is especially noticed by the Commissioner.

He also draws attention to the generous donations of Rai Bahadur Ram Kishen Das, Lala Sultan Singh, Lala Salig Ram, Rai Bahadur Hardhiyan Singh, Lala Tekri Pershad, Lala Rattan Chand, Hazari Mal, Khan Bahadur Ikram-ulla Khan, Rai Bahadur Kanhaya Lal, and to the collections by Captain Douglas, the Rev. S. S. Thomas, Mr. F. C. Waller, the Ven'ble Archdeacon Griffith, the Rev. S. S. Allnutt, the Delhi Emergency Famine Fund, Chaudhri Rughnath Singh of Najafgarh, and Mian Aziz-ud-din, Tahsildar of Sonepat.

HISSAR.

The precarious nature of the Hissar peasant's existence may be inferred from the fact that 90 per cent. of the cropped area is *barani*, that during the last five years 74 per cent. of the cultivated area on the average produced nothing, and that there have been four famines in the district within the last 40 years.

Rupees 15,064-9-0 were collected locally, and the total expenditure amounted to R5,74,215-10-8.

Rupees 5,360-14-3 were spent under head I, the greater part on clothing and blankets to the old and infirm. The rest went to provide tobacco, oil, and other comforts, recommended by the Medical Officer, to the inmates of poor-houses, and to the supply of grain doles to wanderers from Bikanir and Jeypore at tahsil head-quarters. These people were fed for a night and then passed on to the nearest relief work.

The only expenditure under head II was a sum of R500 granted to the Manager of the Bhiwani Orphanage. This institution supported some 460 children from November 1899 to September 1900.

Rupees 48,742-5-6 were spent under head III. Relief was given in the form of clothing, grain doles, money doles, secret relief, cheap grain shops, and

payment for spinning and grinding. Money doles absorbed over R30,000, 2,987 persons being daily relieved for 38 weeks at a cost of 7 pies per head.

A sum of R 10,000 odd represents the cost of daily grain doles to 1,056 persons for 38 weeks. It works out to 7 pies per head.

The expenditure on secret relief was R2,909-11-6, 168 persons being daily relieved at a cost of one anna per head. Dr. Rughnath Mal and Lala Sher Singh, Zaildar of Hansi, are mentioned for their services in this connection.

The cheap shop at Bhiwani sold grain at 25 per cent. below the market rate. Ninety-two families a day were helped in this manner from May to September 1900, and the loss was R334-14-6.

Rupees 630-12-0 were paid for spinning and grinding. The cost comes to 4 pies per head, 148 women being daily relieved.

Under head IV, R5,18,847-15-0 were spent in gifts for seed, cattle and ploughs. It is estimated that some 350,000 head of cattle died in Hissar up to May 1900 and many more must have perished in June and July. In unirrigated villages 60 per cent. of the cattle are said to have been lost during the famine. Nearly two lakhs and a quarter rupees were given to owners, about a lakh and a quarter to occupancy tenants, and a lakh and a half or so to tenants-at-will. The money was distributed by Tahsildars and Extra Assistant Commissioners, and in the words of the Hissar Report "every precaution was taken against *amla* and other harpies."

Where so much work was done and done well by both officials and non-officials, the names of those to whom the Committee owes its thanks are too numerous to be mentioned.

The gifts of clothing, Mellin's food, arrowroot, patent Alpine milk, and sulphate of quinine presented by private individuals and firms and forwarded to the Hissar Committee were most gratefully received and were extremely useful.

GURGAON.

"The sums collected in this district," writes the Commissioner, were small, but the district is poor except as regards Rewari, and in Rewari a very great deal was given in private charity by the large traders of that city. The Cambridge Mission ladies, especially Miss Cousins, assisted in distributing relief to *purda* women in Rewari. Except in the Rewari Tahsil and in part of Gurgaon the famine was but light."

The account of the operations in Delhi is sufficient to show generally the modes of relief commonly adopted under heads I and III.

Of R79,905-0-2 spent in this district, R75,000 were given to agriculturists under head IV.

ROHTAK.

Rupees 1,68,550 were spent altogether; R15,790-7-3 under head III and R1,51,138-4-3 under head IV.

The Deputy Commissioner mentions that in some cases he found it necessary to assist even zaildars and lambardars, and that he gave R3 a month to several old Government pensioners, whose pensions were too small to support them and their families. He found that the supervision and extra staff required for the proper working of cheap grain-shops was not commensurate with the results obtained.

He was loyally assisted by his District Staff and a large number of native gentlemen.

KARNAL.

Rupees 9,233-5-9 were collected in the district. Out of an expenditure of R81,383-6-3, R67,375 came under head IV.

The report especially notices the services of Pandit Amar Nath, Naib Tahsildar of Guhla, and of Mr. J. A. Williams, Honorary Secretary.

AMBALA.

There was no famine in Ambala, but a good deal of distress in the city.

Rupees 4,802-1-9 were spent under head III out of a total expenditure of R4,922-1-9.

The Commissioner considers that the exertions of Mr. Maynard, Miss Pratt and Rai Bahadur Murli Dhar are deserving of the special recognition of the Provincial Committee ; also the subscriptions of the following gentlemen : Sardar Raghbir Singh of Manauli, Raja Joti Pershad of Jagadhri, Nawab Muhammad Bakar Ali Khan, C. I. E., of Kotaha, Sardar Jewan Singh, C. S. I., of Shahzadpur, Lala Ganeshi Lal, Banker, Ambala.

AMRITSAR.

Distress in Amritsar was, so to speak, imported. Practically all the expenditure (over ₹6,000) was on feeding and clothing Bikaniri immigrants. A small sum of ₹300 was given to the ladies of Church of England Zenana Mission, with which to relieve *purda* women.

LAHORE.

The total expenditure was ₹26,285-14-9. The help of Miss Aitken of Kasur, Miss Fox and Miss Bose of Lahore, and Babu R. C. Mozamdar was most valuable in distributing the 4,000 odd rupees which were spent on the respectable poor. The rest of the money, with the exception of ₹200 given to the Hindu Orphanage, went to agriculturists under head IV.

In Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Shahpur and Dera Ismail Khan distress was due to want of fodder and consequent loss of cattle, so that practically all expenditure was under head IV.

The amounts spent under this head are given below :—

	₹.	a.	p.
Gujranwala	18,993	10	0
Gujrat	53,000	0	0
Sialkot	20,000	0	0
Rawalpindi	21,000	0	0
Shahpur	50,580	0	0
Dera Ismail Khan	1,887	6	6
Jhelum	1,01,907	15	0

Half the cattle in Jhelum are said to have died by the end of 1899.

In the remaining districts of the Punjab there was no distress to speak of.

The Ludhiana Report notices the services of Lala Ramji Das, Honorary Magistrate ; Khwaja Ahad Shah, Municipal Commissioner ; Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, Municipal Commissioner ; Mian Shah Din, Municipal Commissioner ; Mr. Giddens, Municipal Secretary ; and Hafiz Abdulla Khan, Merchant, in raising subscriptions.

In Gujrat, Ghulam Haidar, Tahsildar, is mentioned for his exertions in collecting subscriptions, and Lala Ganesh Das, Honorary Magistrate, and Lala Ram Rattan Shah, Banker, are noticed for their generous donations. In Rawalpindi, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Farid, Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioner, and Mian Nazir Ahmad, Pleader, did excellent work. The following are mentioned for their subscriptions :—Rai Bahadur Sardar Sujan Singh (since deceased); Hon'ble Nawab Mohamad Hayat Khan, K.B., C.S.I.; Rai Bahadur Sardar Buta Singh ; Seth Dhanjibhoy, K.B., C.I.E.; Sardar Mohamad Ali Khan of Kot ; Seth Adamji Mamooji ; Dewan Daulat Rai, Pleader ; and Sardar Tara Singh.

The Deputy Commissioner of Hazara commends Mohamad Hosain Khan of Garhi Habibullah and Rocha Ram of Abbotabad for their exertions and for the example set by them in the cause of philanthropy. He also notices the work of Tahsildars Jao Lal, Mir Alam Khan and Pars Ram in collecting money.

The subscriptions of Shahzada Sultan Jan, C.I.E., and of Sardar Kishen Singh in Kohat, deserve mention.

The amounts collected in each district will be found in Appendix B.

M. L. WARING,
Honorary Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

From the "Civil and Military Gazette," dated 29th and 30th December 1899.

Speech by the Lieutenant-Governor.

A public meeting, assembed for the purpose of selecting a Committee for the administration of charitable relief in the Punjab, was held yesterday morning in the Lawrence Hall, Lahore, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor presiding. There was a large attendance of leading Europeans and influential natives.

In opening the proceedings Sir W. Mackworth Young said :—

GENTLEMEN,—For the second time within the last two years an appeal is made to you to come to the relief of those suffering from famine. Such an appeal should not be lightly made, and those who are responsible for making it should justify it. I propose therefore, to say a few words about the present necessity. I do not intend to discuss the agricultural situation in the Province. It is a matter of common notoriety that the last monsoon was a failure, and as a result that the *kharif* crop is also a failure in a very large portion of the Province. The situation is more especially serious in those disticts which principally depend on the *kharif* crop in the south of the Province, and notably in Hissar. And that is not the only consequence of a failure of the monsoon. As you know, one other result is that the land cannot be ploughed or sown for the spring crops, and that has happened this year. The area prepared for the spring crop is extremely small. While, therefore, we look up to Heaven for rain, and pray that it may come, we must realize that when it does come it will only confer a partial benefit. It will, no doubt, provide fodder for cattle for a time, and will freshen up the small area sown for the spring crop, and supplement the well supply in those districts where irrigation by well supply is carried on under difficult circumstances. But it will not save the crop that has withered. That is what I wish you to thoroughly realize. The rain may come, but it cannot restore that which is past. And we must look forward to the widening of the area of distress, more especially in the southern portion of the Province, and probably a very severe famine may be impending. The conditions under which we have to prepare to meet the calamity are already worse than in 1896-97. Previous to that famine year there had been three years of good crops, from 1892 to 1895. The people, therefore, were in a fairly prosperous condition and able to meet the calamity with a firm front. This is not the case now. Recent seasons have been, with one exception, below the average. Stocks are depleted. The people are impoverished. A period of distress is facing us much more severe than in 1896-97. This fact is exemplified very clearly by the numbers on the relief works which were opened in that year, and the numbers on the relief works now. In October 1896 the number receiving relief was 5,000 only. In the corresponding month (October) in the present year there was already a total of 62,000. In November 1896 there were 13,000 people on the relief works. In the month of November just past the number was 75,000. In December 1896 the number had risen to 37,000. The last returns which I have received, and which as yet are only approximate, show that there are now 120,000 people receiving relief. The maximum number of relief workers in any month in the famine of 1896-97 was 129,000. That was in February 1897. Already, two months earlier, we have nearly reached that figure. In view of the circumstances which I have thus endeavoured to place briefly before you, you will see that we must expect a large enhancement of the number of people requiring relief during the next two months. The present situation is an extremely serious one. There is already famine in the land, and that famine is increasing in severity day by day. Man and beast are starving.

Now I don't wish to be misunderstood at all in making this statement of the famine prospects. It is not to ask you to save starving people from death that I make this appeal. You are aware that the policy of the Government in respect of famine—a policy slowly and surely framed—is one that precludes such an appeal. The Government have come to the conclusion that the State is justified in employing its resources to save life. So far as the Government is concerned, not a single soul will be allowed to die of starvation. That is our policy, and the function which the Government thus assumes it cannot relegate to another. I am not, therefore, here to ask you to relieve the Government of any of the responsibilities which it has itself assumed in the saving of life. But alongside of that policy, which I have described, and which I think you will agree with me is a noble policy, there are also other considerations which must not be overlooked. The Government is the trustee of the public funds, and must administer those funds with the greatest possible economy. There must be nothing like waste. Hence in its determination to save life, the Government limits itself to the bare saving of life. Nothing more than that would be justified by the circumstances. And in giving effect to the policy I have described, the Government is resolved in the interests of the tax-payer, to exercise the utmost economy. You will see, therefore, that there is a large area not covered by the generous efforts of the Government in which private liberality can find scope. I shall not go into details on this phase of the question. I believe you are to hear some interesting remarks on the

subject from other speakers. I may perhaps be allowed, however, to point to another aspect of the matter, and to remind you that there are two sides to the quality of mercy. It blesses not only those who receive but those who give. And every one in this room—I may say every one in this Province—will agree with me that it would be very regrettable if the liberal policy of the Government should be the cause of closing those avenues of private charity which on an occasion like the present have always been open. Every true-spirited Englishman will have derived hearty satisfaction from the fact that many of his brethren in this country have contributed to the needs of those who have been individual losers in the present Transvaal War. All honour to them for this exhibition of patriotism and kindliness. At the same time it will not be out of place for me to point to the fact that there is lying at our own door a great need, and one which should at least equally enlist our sympathies—the rendering of help to the famine-stricken. I have only one thing more to say, and that is with reference to those efforts which have already been made in different localities to collect funds for the relief of distress. We do not mean to interfere with those efforts. We simply follow on the same lines, but we desire to administer relief on a more organized plan.

The following resolution was moved by His Lordship the Bishop of Lahore :—

"That the meeting is of opinion that the time has come when a charitable fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of the Punjab, and that subscriptions for this purpose should be invited from the inhabitants of the Punjab."

The Bishop of Lahore.

The Right Rev. Gentleman said that the policy of the Government in the matter of famine relief, so far from being a check on private liberality, was felt to be an incentive to it and showed a noble example which the people of this Province had not been slow to follow. The resolution he had moved required no words of support, but there was one consideration which he felt desirous of placing strongly before them. Moving about among the poor, especially in the Delhi, Hissar, and Rohtak Districts, he observed that nothing seemed to oppress them with a greater sense of hardship than the tremendous export of food grains from the country at the very time that the people were short of food. He was not questioning the policy of such exportation. He did not deny that in the long run it was for the good of the very people who complained of it—in bringing capital to the country, in placing under steady cultivation large areas that might not otherwise be tilled, in raising the rate of wages and in other ways. But, not looking at the matter from the point of view of the political economist, they could easily see that the poor villagers, who remembered the time when food could be bought at the rate of 40 seers for the rupee, and who saw the Rajputana Railway simply blocked with wheat for exportation at a time when it was difficult to get 14 seers for the rupee, must feel sorely tried. For that reason the English residents in the country and the wealthy section of the natives of India, who directly or indirectly benefited by the great export trade, should feel it to be their duty to prove by deeds of charity that at least their sympathies were with the struggling and sometimes starving villagers, and so help to soften the injured feelings which must necessarily exist in famine time.

The resolution was seconded in the vernacular by the Hon'ble Bedi Sir Khem Singh, K.C.I.E., and was carried unanimously.

The Committee.

Mr. P. C. Chatterji moved the following resolution :—

"That a General Committee, with power to add to its number, be formed ; that such Committee consist of the gentlemen who will be named, provided they consent to serve ; and that this Committee be empowered to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the fund subscribed."

Mr. Chatterji appealed with warmth to his fellow-countrymen to imitate the noble generosity of the English nation, which at the period of the last famine in India subscribed the magnificent sum of a million sterling for relief purpose. He pleaded for the distressed zenana women ashamed to make known their need, and for the necessities of impoverished native gentlemen, who would rather die a hundred times than accept public alms of a kind that might seem to pauperise them.

The resolution was seconded in the varnacular by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, C.I.E., and was carried unanimously.

Major-General Morton.

Major-General Sir G. de C. Morton, K.C.I.E., moved the following resolution :—

"That the duties of the General Committee shall be to receive the moneys subscribed to meet the needs of the Punjab ; to determine generally how they shall be distributed : and to direct the action of District officers and local bodies in administering it. Further, that the General Committee be empowered to delegate all or any of its functions to the Executive Committee."

General Morton said he was obliged to the Lieutenant-Governor for giving him an opportunity, in moving the resolution, of expressing, on behalf of the local military force which he represented, their deep sympathy with the distress in the Province, and not only their sympathy but their hope that they might be allowed to co-operate in such a manner as might be found practicable in any measures that might be devised for affording relief. The Indian army being connected so closely with the land, military men in India must feel, quite apart from any motive of humanity, a deep interest in the welfare of those who lived on the land and who supplied the Indian army with its recruits.

The Rev. Dr. J. C. R. Ewing seconded the resolution, and said it was the class of people just above what might be called the labouring class—the class drawing wages amounting to about R20 a month—who would probably feel the distress most keenly.

The resolution was carried unanimously

The last resolution was as follows :—" That the Punjab Famine Charitable Relief Fund shall be expended on the objects declared by the Government of India to be those to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, and that the General Committee and the Executive Committee should, therefore, act in concert with the Local Government and should see that the moneys which they distribute are properly applied.

Mr. C. L. Tupper.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I., in moving this resolution, began by saying :— When we are asked to subscribe to any charity, one of the most interesting questions connected with the request is—What will become of our money? Mr. Tupper continued :— Your money will be spent, first on the objects declared by the Government of India to be those to which private subscribtions may legitimately be devoted ; and, secondly, in the same away as subscribtions which were raised three years ago for the same purpose as we now have in view, namely, for famine relief. These two things are really one and the same thing, for the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund of 1897 was administered in accordance with the views of the Government of India. It is, therefore, pretty well known by this time what the objects are to which, according to these views, present charity should be devoted in this country, but it may be convenient to remind you of the few approved heads of expenditure. They are, first, the provision of comforts on relief works ; second, the maintenance of orphans ; third, the relief of the respectable poor who cannot be reached by Government officials ; and, fourthly, the restoration to their original position of those who have been reduced to straits by long period of distress. Now our present circumstances very closely resemble those of the winter of 1896-97, except that the failure of the winter rains, which unhappily continues to date, has resulted in an even worse situation. We may take it that the facts connected with the administration of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund of 1897 are an excellent guide to the profitable disposal of the funds which will be raised now. I have, therefore, turned with some interests to the report of my friends, Mr. Masson and Mr. Atkins, the Joint Honorary Secretaries of the Famine Relief Executive Committee, which shows up to 31st October 1897 what was done with the money raised on the last occasion of the present kind. I find from that report that out of a total expenditure of Rs. 10,84,386, only Rs. 10,022 were spent on the first head, the provision of comforts on relief works, and only Rs. 950 on orphans. The bulk of the expenditure was on the relief of the respectable poor, Rs. 2,37,578, and the restoration of sufferers to their normal condition, Rs. 8,35,856. If very little was spent for the provision of comforts on relief works, it must be remembered that a considerable amount of clothing was received from England, and consigments were also received of Swiss milk and biscuits and similar articles. No doubt care is required to make the distribution of clothing really useful, but that is, if it can be bestowed, a very good form of charitable relief. For orphans next to no expenditure was necessary ; fortunately very few orphans were left in the Punjab famine, and the few that were left were taken over by the different orphanages. The relief of the respectable poor was arranged by that excellent expedient the cheap shop ; by giving out tasks of spinning and embroidery to be done by poor women in their own homes ; and by giving employment in their habitual trades, to weavers, embroiderers, shawl and phulkari makers, shoe and harness makers and similar artisans, the materials being sometimes supplied, and the articles produced being either sold, or given to people in destitute circumstances. These methods of relief were adopted with great success by the residents of the city of Amritsar, under the able and vigorous superintendence of the late Mr. Nicholl, whose loss we all deplore and whom we specially miss just now, remembering with regret that he might again have earned, as he did before, the gratitude alike of the people of Amritsar and of the susbcribers to the fund. The cheap shop, I need hardly remind you, is a system which relaxes the extreme tension of high prices. The respectable poor in need of relief are given tickets or tokens which they present at shops maintained or subsidised by the local authorities, and are thereupon either given doles of grain gratis, or are enabled to buy it at less than the market rate, the loss on these transactions being born by the Famine Fund. To set people up again at the close of the famine large sums were disbursed in the form of free gifts for the purchase of cattle or seed, mostly for cattle. The great utility of this procedure is manifest to all who have any acquaintance with Punjab husbandry. Mr. Tupper concluded with an eloquent reference to the well-known charitableness of all the Indian races, and his last words of appeal, which were full of spirit, were received with loud applause.

Mr. D. P. Masson.

Mr. D. P. Masson said it gave him very special pleasure to be asked to support the resolution. As a non-official intimately connected with the recent—much too recent—famine Committee he wished to be permitted to give his testimony, founded upon experience, as to the desirableness of carrying out the present resolution. He should always look back with pleasure and thankfulness on the manner in which the recent Committee was able to fulfil the trust reposed upon it by the liberality of the public. They expended about ten lakhs of rupees in the Province, and he might say (although he himself had something to do with the work) that the money was expended to the best advantage, and, in spite of the difficulties pertaining to the country, with the very minimum of abuse. For that happy result they were always indebted greatly, and in many instances they were indebted entirely, to the support which the Committee obtained from the officers of that distinguished service of which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was the honoured head in this Province. The support was given with an alacrity that almost anticipated the wishes of the Committee. What was done on that occasion he was sure would be repeated on the present occasion.

The Lieutenant-Governor.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor said: The objects which we had in view in meeting here to-day have already been very largely secured by the unanimity of sentiment and the warmth of sympathy which have characterized the proceedings, and the manner in which the various resolutions have been received shows that a hearty response may be expected to be made to the appeal. I have only one or two words more to add before closing this meeting. In the first place, I should like to say, with reference to what Mr. Masson has said, that he has himself kindly again consented to place his services at the disposal of the Committee as one of the Secretaries of the fund. We are all grateful to him for volunteering a second time to undertake what are very onerous duties. The kindly expressions regarding the Civil Service, to which Mr. Masson gave utterance, remind me of something I had in my mind before, namely, a desire to mention on this occasion that there are a number of famine-workers in the Province who demand our close sympathy, both officials and non-officials. I can only say with regard to the servants of the Government who are engaged in the present battle against distress, that I owe that body a debt of gratitude for the way they have been giving themselves devotedly to the work in hand, and that I take this public opportunity of expressing my entire confidence in their judgment and devotion in dealing with this crisis. In pursuance of the third resolution which has been passed to-day, I propose to call a meeting of the General Committee of the Fund at the earliest possible date. There is no time like the present, and I believe in striking while the iron is hot. I invite those Gentlemen of the Committee who are present here to-day to attend a meeting of the General Committee to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock at Government House. Finally, I have to announce that a subscription list is on the table, and those who are desirous of clinching the purpose of this meeting at once, will be most heartily welcomed if they will put down their names on the list which lies on the table. I don't ask you to be in a hurry, because there is no hurry. But if it so happens that there are people here who wish to take advantage of the present occasion, arrangements are provided for the purpose. I now declare this meeting closed.

A number of gentlemen present entered their names on the subscription list for sums amounting to an aggregate of more than Rs. 17,000.

Meeting of the General Committee of the Punjab Famine Charitable Relief Fund, held at Government House, Lahore, on Friday, the 29th December 1899.

PRESENT:

The Hon'ble Sir Mackworth Young, K.C.S.I., *in the Chair.*
The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Lahore.
Major Genral Sir G. de C. Morton, K.C.I.E., C.B.
Mr. W. O. Clark, I. C. S.
Rai Bahadur Mr. P. C. Chatterjee.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I.
Mr. H. A. Anderson, C.S.I.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. L. Montgomery.
Mr. J. M. Douie.
Mr. E. B. Francis.
Rev. J. C. R. Ewing, D.D.
Rev. R. McC. Paterson.
Mr. D. P. Masson, C.I.E.
Mr. M. L. Waring.
The Hon'ble Haji Nawab Fettah Ali Khan, Kazilbash.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, C.I.E.
Shahzada Sultan Jan, C.I.E.
Rai Bahadur Lorinda Mal.
Mr. Joseph Greenwood.
Barkat Ram, Pleader and Sub-Registrar, Gujranwala.
Seikh Ghulám Sadik.
Lalá Mohan Lal, son of the late Rai Sahib Munshi Gulab Singh.
Sodhi Indar Singh of Sultan Khanwala, Ferozepore.
M. Umar Hyat Khan, Tiwana, Shahpur.
Khan Bahadur Saifullah Khan, Muzaffargarh.
Gul Muhammad.
M. Mauj-ud-din, Sub-Registrar, Hoshiarpur.
Khwaja Kamal-ud-din, Pleader, Peshawar.
Ram Chand Thakur Pleader, Peshawar.
Rai Sahib Lala Maya Das Sahni, Rawalpindi.
Rai Bahadur Buta Singh, Rawalpindi.
Rai Sahid Bhagwan Das, Civil Surgeon, Muzaffargarh.
Lala Mansa Ram, Sahukar, Ludhiana.
Seth Lakhmi Chand, Dera Ismail Khan.
Haji Malak Rahman, Peshawar.
Khan Bahadur Arbab Muhammad Hussain Khan, Mohmand.
Mufti Fida Muhammmad.
Mian Karim Bakhsh.
Muhammad Hussain Khan, Jagirdar, Garhi Habibulla, Hazara District.
Sardar Kishen Singh, of Kurram, Kohat District.
Sheikh Ahmad, Honorary Magistrate, Muzaffargarh.
Yar Muhammad Khan, retired Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Khan Bahadur Muhammad Abdulla Khan, C.I.E., of Isa Khel.
Khan Bahadur Azim Khan.
Lala Balmokand Hoja.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

I.—Proposed by Pandit Suraj Kaul, and seconded by Rai Sahib Maya Das, that the following gentlemen be added to the General Committee:—

Lieut.-Genl. Sir Power Palmer, K.C.B., General Officer Commanding, Peshawar.
General Officer Commanding, Punjab Frontier Force.
General Officer Commanding, Sirhind.
General Officer Commanding, Rawalpindi.
Sir W. Rattigan, Q.C.
Mr. James Walker, C.I.E.
Mr. J. Wilson, I.C.S.
Mr. S. Finney.
Mr. E. F. Jacob.
Mr. W. R. H. Merk, C.S.I.
Mr. A. H. Diack, I.C.S.
Mr. E. B. Francis, I.C.S. (retired).
Khan Bahadur Hassan Bakhsh of Mooltan.
Raizada Ram Chand of Mooltan.
Khalifa Pir Bakhsh.
K. Yusaf Ali Shah.
Mr. Kunj Behari Thapur.
Sardar Sujan Singh, Rai Bahadur.
Khan Bahadur Mr. Dhanjibhoy F. Commadore, C.I.E.
Lala Lal Chand.
Mr. Muhammad Shafi.
Khan Bahadur Sheikh Nanak Bakhsh.
Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram.
Ram Saran Das.
Babu Abinash Chandar Mozamdar.
Khan Bahadur Fakir Syad Kamr-ud-din.
Rai Bahadur Gopal Das.
Khan Bahadur Ibrahim Khan.
Khan Bahadur Mohabbat Khan of Toru.
Khan Bahadur Farid Khan.
Arbab Muhammad Azim Khan.
Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan, Gheba.
Diwan Bahadur Jawahir Mal of Bhera.

II.—Proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Tupper, and seconded by Sheikh Mauj-ud-din of Hoshiarpur—

That the Executive Committee shall consist of the gentlemen named in the list annexed, and that the Committee shall have power to add to its number.

III.—Proposed by Mr. Masson, and seconded by Thakur Ram Chand—

That the functions and powers of the General Committee be delegated to the Executive Committee.

IV.—Proposed by General Sir G. deC. Morton, and seconded by Maulvi Gul Muhammad, Pleader.

That the Executive Committee shall have power, among other things, to elect its Chairman and to appoint its Secretary and other officers.

V.—Proposed by Mr. W. O. Clark, and seconded by M. Umar Hyat Khan, Tiwana—

That the Executive Committee shall give due publicity to all its proceedings.

VI.—Proposed by Rai Bahadur Mr. P. C. Chatterjee, and seconded by Pandit Suraj Kaul.—

That although the conduct of the executive work of the Fund has been delegated to the Executive Committee, it is to be understood that every member of the General Committee will be at any time at liberty to attend any meetings of the Executive Committee.

His Honour announced that Lala Mohan Lal has kindly volunteered to execute free all the printing required by the Executive Committee.

VII.—Proposed by Pandit Suraj Kaul, and seconded by Lala Mohan Lal—

That the thanks of the meeting be given to His Honour for presiding.

PUNJAB FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED BY RESOLUTION II.

(*With power to add to its number.*)

Sir W. Rattigan, Q.C.
Mr. E. B. Francis.
Revd. Dr. J. C. R. Ewing.
Mr. Justice P. C. Chatterji, Judge of the Chief Court.
Mr. J. M. Douie, I.C.S.
Mr. C. H. Atkins, I.C.S.
Revd. E. J. Warlow.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. L. Tupper, C.S.I.
Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram.
Mr. D. P. Masson, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Madan Gopal.
Lala Ram Saran Das.
Colonel S. Jacob, R.E.
Khan Bahadur Muhammad Barkat Ali Khan.
Colonel Sir B. Bromhead, C.B.
Mr. S. Finney.
Mr. E. F. Jacob.
The Hon'ble Haji Nawab Fatteh Ali Khan.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. S. Beresford, M.I.C.E.
Mr. W. R. H. Merk, C.S.I.
Mr. A. H. Diack, I.C.S.
Mr. Alweyne Turner, Barrister-at-Law.
Nawab Muhammad Hyat Khan, C.S.I.
Mr. M. L. Waring, I.C.S.
Mr. Kunj Behari, Thapur.
Major-General Sir G. deC. Morton, K.C.I.E., or an Officer to be deputed by him.
Mr. J. Wilson, I. C. S.

FORM A.

Cash Account for the whole period of Famine ending 28th February 1901.

Receipts.	Amount.			Payments.	Amount.		
	R	*a.*	*p.*		*R*	*a.*	*p.*
1. Received from Central Committee	12,55,000	0	0*	1. Under Object I . . .	20,797	13	8
2. Provincial Collections . . .	2,62,887	11	10†	2. „ II . . .	20,878	15	9
2*a*. Balances from previous famine	5,906	2	10	3. „ III . . .	91,529	4	1
3. Other receipts	2,776	2	9	4. „ IV . . .	11,08,467	9	9
				5. Miscellaneous—			
				(*a*) Office expenditure . .	3,573	1	10
				(*b*) Other expenditure . .	988	4	9
				6. Grants to Natives States . .	11,500	0	0‡
				7. Refunds to Central Committee .	2,50,000	0	0
				8. Closing balance—			
				(*a*) With District Committees .	4,078	14	6
				(*b*) With Provincial Committee	14,756	1	1
Total .	15,26,570	1	5	Total .	15,26,570	1	5

* ₹11,25,000 for the Province.
₹ 1,30,000 for Native States.

₹12,55,000

† Including ₹366-8-6, ear-marked for the Province, received from the Central Committee, and ₹300 ear-marked for Rohtak District.

‡ Relief afforded—

	R
Head III, 405 persons	732
„ IV, 1,231 „	10,768
	11,500

D. P. MASSON,
Chairman.

M. L. WARING,
Honorary Secretary.

Dated Lahore, 13th March 1901.

FORM B.

PROVINCIAL RECEIPTS.

No.	District.	Opening Balance.	Received from Provincial Committee.	Ear-marked Subscriptions for the District.	Local Subscriptions.	Other Receipts.	Advances recovered or otherwise adjusted.	Total.
		℞ a. p.	℞ a. p.	℞ a. p.	℞ a. p.	℞ a. p.	℞ a. p.	℞ a. p.
1	Delhi	...	...	...	37,351 11 6	...	...	37,351 11 6
2	Gurgaon	...	83,000 0 0	...	2,212 14 0	...	...	85,212 14 0
3	Rohtak	...	1,68,259 0 0	300 0 0	4,657 0 0	...	...	1,73,207 0 0
4	Hissar	374 10 10	5,61,475 0 0	...	15,064 9 0	1,218 10 9	...	5,78,132 14 7
5	Karnal	...	81,000 0 0	...	17,476 5 9	...	...	98,476 5 9
6	Umballa	...	3,000 0 0	...	6,665 0 0	518 8 9	...	10,183 8 9
7	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	...	...	...	5,258 1 0	...	...	5,258 1 0
9	Jullundur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	560 12 0	...	...	560 12 0
12	Ferozepore	...	...	...	10,722 13 0	...	...	10,722 13 0
13	Amritsar	...	5,000 0 0	...	13,311 0 0	...	...	18,311 0 0
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	3,176 0 4	...	...	3,176 0 4
15	Lahore	...	23,000 0 0	...	6,068 8 0	7 13 9	...	29,076 5 9
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Mooltan	...	...	...	3,083 0 0	...	...	3,083 0 0
18	Mozaffargarh	392 14 3	...	...	4,957 9 7	...	...	5,350 7 10
19	Jhang	...	...	...	978 8 0	...	...	973 8 0
20	Gujranwala	...	20,000 0 0	...	2,795 9 9	...	...	22,795 9 9
21	Sialkot	...	20,000 0 0	...	4,971 5 6	3 12 0	...	24,975 1 6
22	Gujrat	...	53,000 0 0	...	4,491 0 0	...	...	57,491 0 0
23	Jhelum	...	1,00,000 0 0	...	5,513 0 0	1,026 5 6	...	1,06,539 5 6
24	Shahpur	...	56,000 0 0	...	2,024 0 0	...	...	58,024 0 0
25	Rawalpindi	4,094 9 9	21,000 0 0	...	6,868 12 6	1 0 0	...	31,964 6 3
26	Peshawar	1,044 0 0	...	...	12,354 8 6	...	...	13,398 8 6
27	Hazara	...	...	...	3,246 4 0	...	...	3,246 4 0
28	Kohat	...	...	...	1,501 14 0	...	...	1,501 14 0
29	D. I. Khan	...	...	...	4,047 6 7	...	...	4,047 6 7
30	D. G. Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	...	...	2,027 0 0	...	...	2,027 0 0
	Provincial Committee	...	...	...	81,203 2 10	...	...	81,203 2 10
	Total	5,906 2 10	11,94,725 0 0	300 0 0	2,62,587 11 10	2,776 2 9	...	14,66,295 1 5

FORM C.

PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURE.

No.	District.	Under Object I.	Under Object II.	Under Object III.	Under Object IV.	Miscellaneous.	Total Expenditure.	Closing Balances.	Total.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
1	Delhi	110 11 0	...	3,430 13 0	7,097 7 0	123 2 0	10,762 1 0	26,589 10 6	37,351 11 6
2	Gurgaon	3,624 7 9	46 11 6	1,220 2 3	75,000 0 0	13 10 8	79,905 0 2	5,307 13 10	85,212 14 0
3	Rohtak	1,285 1 6	97 10 3	15,790 7 3	1,51,138 4 3	238 8 9	1,68,550 0 0	4,657 0 0	1,73,207 0 0
4	Hissar	5,360 14 3	500 0 0	48,742 5 6	5,18,847 15 0	764 7 11	5,74,215 10 8	3,917 3 11	5,78,132 14 7
5	Karnal	2,000 0 0	33 14 0	11,870 12 3	67,375 0 0	103 12 0	81,383 6 3	17,092 15 6	98,476 5 9
6	Umballa	90 0 0	...	4,802 1 9	30 0 0	...	4,922 1 9	5,261 7 0	10,183 8 9
7	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	...	...	...	...	21 0 0	21 0 0	5,237 1 0	5,258 1 0
9	Jullundur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiapur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	...	...	...	560 12 0	560 12 0
12	Ferozepore	50 0 0	...	...	...	4 10 0	54 10 0	10,668 3 0	10,722 13 0
13	Amritsar	5,909 15 3	...	300 0 0	...	15 4 0	6,225 3 3	12,085 12 9	18,311 0 0
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,176 0 4	3,176 0 4
15	Lahore	...	200 0 0	4,627 0 0	21,410 0 0	48 14 9	26,285 14 9	2,790 7 0	29,076 5 9
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Moeltan	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,083 0 0	3,083 0 0
18	Muzaffargarh	34 4 8	...	...	...	16 12 6	51 1 2	5,299 6 8	5,350 7 10
19	Jhang	...	...	...	...	...	...	978 8 0	978 8 0
20	Gujranwala	374 11 0	0 12 0	201 2 0	18,993 10 0	83 10 0	19,653 13 0	3,141 12 9	22,795 9 9
21	Sialkot	669 5 3	...	...	20,000 0 0	24 7 0	20,693 12 3	4,281 5 3	24,975 1 6
22	Gujrat	...	...	...	53,000 0 0	7 0 0	53,007 0 0	4,484 0 0	57,491 0 0
23	Jhelum	...	...	...	1,01,907 15 0	565 8 0	1,02,473 7 0	4,065 14 6	1,06,539 5 6
24	Shahpur	28 0 0	...	...	50,580 0 0	...	50,608 0 0	7,416 0 0	58,024 0 0
25	Rawalpindi	...	...	...	21,000 0 0	10 14 0	21,010 14 0	10,953 8 3	31,964 6 3
26	Peshawar	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,398 8 6	13,398 8 6
27	Hazara	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,246 4 0	3,246 4 0
28	Kohat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,501 14 0	1,501 14 0
29	D. I. Khan	96 7 0	...	544 8 1	1,887 6 6	19 1 0	2,547 6 7	1,500 0 0	4,047 6 7
30	D. G. Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	...	...	...	7 11 0	7 11 0	2,019 5 0	2,027 0 0
	Provincial Committee.	1,164 0 0	20,000 0 0	...	200 0 0	2,493 1 0	23,857 1 0	...	23,857 1 0
	Total	20,797 13 8	20,878 15 9	91,529 4 1	11,08,467 9 9	4,561 6 7	12,46,235 1 10	1,62,713 13 9	14,08,948 15 7

FORM D.

PAYMENTS.

OBJECT I.

No.	District.	*By gifts of clothing or blankets to persons in receipt of State relief.*		*By addition of extra food or medical comforts to persons in Government poor-houses, hospitals or kitchens.*		*By addition to Government doles in gratuitous relief.*		*Other forms of relief (specifying nature of relief).*		*Total.*	
		Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.
			R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.
1	Delhi	140	110 11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	110 11 0
2	Gurgaon	2,743	2,079 8 6	...	...	...	...	1,141	1,544 15 3	3,884	3,624 7 9
3	Rohtak	68	28 14 6	122	181 5 9	...	...	51	1,074 13 3	241	1,285 1 6
4	Hissar	5,603	4,499 14 0	22,176	204 6 6	...	...	63,168	656 9 9	90,947	5,360 14 3
5	Karnal	990	2,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	990	2,000 0 0
6	Umballa	...	...	180	90 0 0	...	...	...	...	180	90 0
7	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Jullundur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	50 0 0	300	50 0 0
13	Amritsar	2,000	1,981 4 9	7,000	3,928 10 6	...	...	...	...	9,000	5,909 15 3
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Lahore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Mooltan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	34 4 8	200	34 4 8
19	Jhang	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Gujranwala	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,750	374 11 0	9,750	374 11 0
21	Sialkot	...	...	1,021	151 14 2	...	...	726	517 7 1	1,747	669 5 3
22	Gujrat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Jhelum	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	28 0 0	3	28 0 0
24	Shahpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Rawalpindi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Peshawar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Hazara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Kohat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Dera Ismail Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,600	96 7 0	1,600	96 7 0
30	Dera Ghazi Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Provincial Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,164 0 0
	Total	11,544	10,700 4 9	30,499	4,556 4 11	...	...	76,939	4,327 4 0	118,982	20,797 13 8

FORM E.

PAYMENTS.

OBJECT II.

No.	District.	*By subsidies to private orphanages (stating number of orphans in the subsidised orphanages.)*		*By addition of extra food or clothing or medical comforts to orphans supported from State funds.*		*Cost of sending orphans to private orphanages.*		*Total.*	
		Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.
			R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.
1	Delhi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Gurgaon	...	...	28	46 11 6	...	...	28	46 11 6
3	Rohtak	...	...	12	97 10 3	...	...	12	97 10 3
4	Hissar	250	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	250	500 0 0
5	Karnal	...	...	2	17 14 0	2	16 0 0	4	33 14 0
6	Umballa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Jullundar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Amritsar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Lahore	200	200 0 0	...	...	...	...	200	200 0 0
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Mooltan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Muzaffagarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Jhang	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Gujranwala	...	...	...	...	2	0 12 0	2	0 12 0
21	Sialkot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Gujrat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Jhelum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Shahpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Rawalpindi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Peshawar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Hazara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Kohat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	D I. Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	D. G. Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Provincial Committee	1,450	20,000	...	...	...	...	1,450	20,000 0 0
	TOTAL	1,900	20,700 0 0	42	162 3 9	4	16 12 0	1,946	20,878 15 9

FORM F.

PAYMENTS.

OBJECT III.

No.	District.	*By gift of clothing or blankets.*		*By money or grain doles.*		*By means of cheap grain shops (net cost).*		*By providing work in their trade to respectable poor (not being the artisans, petty shopkeepers, &c., helped under Object IV) net cost to be shown.*		*Total.*	
		Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.
			₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
1	Delhi	...	...	1,951	2,040 14 9	...	...	415	1,389 14 3	2,366	3,430 13 0
2	Gurgaon	...	...	305	1,220 2 3	...	...	...	...	305	1,220 2 3
3	Rohtak	1,697	2,105 10 3	1,510	12,224 7 3	445	1,360 5 9	1	100 0 0	3,653	15,790 7 3
4	Hissar	2,906	3,427 3 3	1,143,499	43,740 0 3	11,662	334 14 6	39,368	1,240 3 6	1,197,435	48,742 5 6
5	Karnal	...	...	6,935	11,870 12 3	...	...	...	...	6,935	11,870 12 3
6	Umballa	...	...	76,382	3,744 0 0	...	...	7,809	1,058 1 9	84,191	4,802 1 9
7	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Jullundur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Forozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Amritsar	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	300 0 0	100	300 0 0
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Lahore	...	...	3,432	4,627 0 0	...	...	...	...	3,432	4,627 0 0
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Mooltan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Jhang	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Gujranwala	...	...	100	201 2 0	...	...	...	...	100	201 2 0
21	Sialkot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Gujrat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Jhelum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Shahpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	Rawalpindi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Peshawar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Hazara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Kohat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	D. I. Khan	...	...	...	...	2,108	544 8 1	...	...	2,108	544 8 1
30	D. G. Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	4,603	5,532 13 6	1,234,114	79,668 6 9	14,215	2,239 12 4	47,693	4,088 3 6	1,300,625	91,529 4 1

FORM G.

PAYMENTS.

OBJECT IV.

No.	District.	*By gifts of seed, grain, fodder bullocks, implements of husbandry, or cash to purchase them to broken down agriculturists.*		*By helping artisans, petty shopkeepers and the like (not being the respectable poor under object III).*		*By valedictory doles to persons in receipt of Government relief on the closing of such relief.*		*Total.*	
		Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.	Number of persons.	Amount.
			₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.
1	Delhi	...	...	808	4,598 5 0	2,000	2,499 2 0	2,808	7,097 7 0
2	Gurgaon	14,935	75,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	14,935	75,000 0 0
3	Rohtak	14,930	1,51,138 4 3	...	...	...	...	14,930	1,51,138 4 3
4	Hissar	39,363	5,18,847 15 0	...	...	...	...	39,363	5,18,847 15 0
5	Karnal	3,532	64,826 0 0	252	2,549 0 0	...	...	3,784	67,375 0 0
6	Umballa	...	...	1	30 0 0	...	...	1	30 0 0
7	Simla	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Julundur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Amritsar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Lahore	1,214	21,410 0 0	...	...	...	...	1,214	21,410 0 0
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Mooltan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Jhang	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Gujranwala	742	18,993 10 0	...	...	...	...	742	18,993 10 0
21	Sialkot	7,094	20,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	7,094	20,000 0 0
22	Gujrat	2,544	53,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	2,544	53,000 0 0
23	Jhelum	7,361	1,01,907 15 0	...	...	...	...	7,361	1,01,907 15 0
24	Shahpur	2,386	50,580 0 0	...	...	...	...	2,386	50,580 0 0
25	Rawalpindi	2,301	21,000 0 0	...	...	...	...	2,301	21,000 0 0
26	Peshawar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Hazara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	Kohat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	D. I. Khan	1,102	1,887 6 6	...	...	...	...	1,102	1,887 6 6
30	D. G. Khan.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Provincial Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200 0 0
	Total	97,504	10,98,591 2 9	1,061	7,177 5 0	2,000	2,499 2 0	1,00,565	11,08,467 9 9

FORM H.

No.	District.	Miscellaneous.		Advances made.	Remitted to Provincial Committee.	Closing Balance with District Committees.	Total.	Grand Total.	
		Office Expenditure.	Other Expenditure.					Number of persons.	Amount.
		R a. p.	R a. p.		R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.		R a. p.
1	Delhi	123 2 0	...	...	26,588 11 6	0 15 0	26,712 12 6	5,314	10,638 15 0
2	Gurgaon	13 10 8	...	...	5,307 13 10	...	5,321 8 6	19,152	79,891 5 6
3	Rohtak	44 9 6	193 15 3	...	4,657 0 0	...	4,895 8 9	19,086	1,68,311 7 3
4	Hissar	583 9 5	180 14 6	...	3,694 10 2	222 9 9	4,681 11 10	13,27,745	5,73,451 2 9
5	Karnal	91 8 0	12 4 0	...	17,068 1 3	24 14 3	17,196 11 6	11,713	81,279 10 3
6	Umballa	...	...	...	5,261 7 0	...	5,261 7 0	84,372	4,922 1 9
7	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Ludhiana	21 0 0	...	...	5,237 1 0	...	5,258 1 0	...	...
9	Jullundur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Kangra	...	...	...	...	560 12 0	560 12 0	...	...
12	Ferozepore	2 9 0	2 1 0	...	10,668 1 0	0 2 0	10,672 13 0	300	50 0 0
13	Amritsar	...	15 4 0	...	12085 12 9	...	12,101 0 9	9,100	6,209 15 3
14	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	3,176 0 4	...	3,176 0 4	...	...
15	Lahore	48 14 9	...	...	2,500 0 0	290 7 0	2,839 5 9	4,846	26,237 0 0
16	Montgomery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Mooltan	...	...	...	3,083 0 0	...	3,083 0 0	...	...
18	Muzaffargarh	16 12 6	...	...	5,299 6 8	...	5,316 3 2	200	34 4 8
19	Jhang	...	...	...	978 8 0	...	978 8 0	...	...
20	Gujranwala	10 0 0	73 10 0	...	3,141 10 9	0 2 0	3,225 6 9	10,594	19,570 3 0
21	Sialkot	24 7 0	...	...	4,281 5 3	...	4,305 12 3	8,841	20,669 5 3
22	Gujrat	7 0 0	...	...	4,484 0 0	...	4,491 0 0	2,544	53,000 0 0
23	Jhelum	82 12 0	482 12 0	...	1,355 0 0	2,710 14 6	4,631 6 6	7,364	1,01,907 15 0
24	Shapur	...	...	...	7,416 0 0	...	7,416 0 0	2,386	50,608 0 0
25	Rawalpindi	...	10 14 0	...	10,953 8 3	...	10,964 6 3	2,301	21,000 0 0
26	Peshawar	...	...	...	13,130 8 6	268 0 0	13,398 8 6	...	...
27	Hazara	...	...	...	3,246 4 0	...	3,246 4 0	...	...
28	Kohat	...	...	...	1,501 14 0	...	1,501 14 0	...	...
29	D. I. Khan	10 2 0	8 15 0	...	1,500 0 0	...	1,519 1 0	4,810	2,528 5 7
30	D. G. Khan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Bannu	...	7 11 0	...	2,019 3 0	0 2 0	2,027 0 0	...	...
	Provincial Committee	2,493 1 0	...	...	...	...	2,493 1 0	1,450	21,364 0 0
	Total	2,573 1 10	988 4 9	...	1,58,634 15 3	4,078 14 6	1,67,275 4 4	15,22,118	12,41,673 11 3

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND IN RAJPUTANA AND AJMER-MERWARA.

Formation of Committee.

At the meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, held at Calcutta on the 21st February, 1900, it was resolved that the heads of Local Governments be asked to take the necessary steps to form Provincial and Local Committees for the collection of funds in aid of the General Famine Fund, and for distribution of relief and that the Agents to the Governor General in Central India and Rajputana be invited to consider how far they could adopt the terms of Resolution No. 5 passed at the said meeting, to the circumstances of the Native States under their control, if not for collection at least for distribution of funds.

When copies of Resolutions 5 and 6 adopted at the Central Executive Committee's meeting of the 21st February and of a letter dated 26th February 1900, from the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, were received in March 1900, steps were at once taken by the Honourable Mr. A. H. T. Martindale, C.S.I., the then Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara to form the Provincial and Local Committees. The Rajputana Provincial Committee thus came into existence on the 2nd April, 1900, and held its first meeting on the 17th idem. The following gentlemen were appointed members and office bearers:—

President,

(1) The Honourable Mr. A. H. T. Martindale, C.S., C.S.I., Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana, and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.

Vice-President and Chairman,

(2) A. L. P. Tucker, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.

Members,

(3) Lieutenant-Colonel W. Loch, A.D.C., Principal, Mayo College, and Chairman, Ajmer Municipal Committee.
(4) T. C. Edwards, Esq., I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner and District Magistrate, Ajmer.
(5) Rao Bahadur Pandit G. R. Khandekar, B.A., Judicial Assistant Commissioner, Ajmer.
(6) Rai Bahadur Seth Mulchand.

Treasurer,

(7) Seth Umedmal.

Honorary Secretary,

(8) R. S. M. Damodarlal, Extra Assistant Commissioner I, and Treasury Officer, Ajmer.

Considering the desirability of associating the various Darbars in Rajputana, whose subjects were benefited by grants from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, with the Provincial Committee as closely as possible, the names of the following gentlemen were subsequently added to the list of the members of the Provincial Committee:—

(9) Kishengarh Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.
(10) Jaipur Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.
(11) Lala Dalip Rai, Marwar Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.
(12) Tonk Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.
(13) Bundi Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.
(14) Munshi Iqbal Husein, Bikanir Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.

(15). Lala Sai Ram, Kotah and Jhalawar Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.
(16). Mewar Vakil.

To carry out objects of relief adopted by the Central Executive Committee, Calcutta, fifteen Local Committees were formed to undertake the actual distribution of funds allotted by the Provincial Committee to each local area.

* * * * * *

Causes of Distress.

The total failure of crops in consequence of the general failure of the monsoons of 1899, which followed a very deficient rainfall in 1898, brought about in Rajputana a distress which was the worst of its kind.

The famine of 1899-00 was a triple famine of food, water, and fodder, and it is said that a famine of such an unusually severe type has not been known in Rajputana for over a hundred years. The people of a large part of Rajputana and the districts of Ajmer and Merwara were reduced to a very deplorable state in the beginning of the year 1900, and as the year advanced the distress among the people became intense and acute. The mortality amongst the cattle was frightful in Marwar, the hilly tracts (Kherwara and Kotra), Dungarpur and Mewar. The famine had reached its climax just before the burst of the monsoon of 1900. The rains began well and the continuance of good rainfall soon began to reduce the severity of the famine and the emigrants who had left their homes began to return. As the mortality among cattle had been unprecedented the various committees took such action as was possible to supply the agriculturists with plough cattle and implements of husbandry with a view to restore them to their former position. It was for this reason that the operations of the Committees continued till February 1901. To the Dungarpur Local Committee a grant of R15,000 had to be made over in April 1901.

Area and population affected.

The famine affected the following area and population in the Province of Rajputana and the districts of Ajmer-Merwara :—

No.	Name of State or District.	Area affected in square miles.	Population.	Remarks.
1	Kherwara and Kotra .	900	71,000	
2	Kishengarh . . .	858	125,516	
3	Bikanir . . .	22,340	832,000	
4	Mount Abu . . .	...	...	Area and population included in Sirohi State.
5	Merwara . . .	6,408	119,999	
6	Pertabgarh . . .	886	87,975	
	Banswara . . .	1,580	211,641	
	Khushalgarh . .	360		
7	Dungarpur . . .	1,445	100,018	
8	Kotah	5,673	719,061	
	Jhalawar . . .	808	90,174	
9	Jodhpur . . .	34,963	2,519,868	
	Sirohi	1,964	181,843	
	Jaisalmer . . .	16,062	115,701	
10	Mewar, excluding hilly tracts of Kherwara and Kotra.	12,753	1,727,899	
11	Bundi	2,220	295,675	
	Tonk	2,552	380,069	
	Shahpura . . .	405	63,646	
12	Ajmer	2,069	422,359	
		114,246	8,064,444	

Remittance from the Central Committee and Local Subscriptions, other receipts and expenditure.

The estimates of the probable requirements of the province were obtained through British Political Officers and applications for funds were made to the Central Executive Committee which showed great consideration in readily complying with our requests.

* * * * * *

Of the sum of R2,42,633-12-6 expended under this head the sum of R1,02,432-4-6 or nearly 42·2 per cent. was devoted to providing clothing and blankets for 134,271 persons. R88,182-3-10 or 36·3 per cent was spent in supplying extra food and medical comforts in poor-houses, hospitals, and kitchens for 348,638 persons. There was an outlay of R39,311-10-8 under this object in supplementing the amount of the dole granted by Government and States. The sum of R12,707-9-6 was expended in other forms of relief and the number of persons relieved was 186,612.

Expenditure and relief under Object I.

This form of relief was common to all Local Committees except Kushalgarh Committee, which spent nothing under this head. The largest sums were spent by the Deoli, Ajmer, Kotah and Jhalawar, Kherwara and Kotra, Merwara, Udaipur, and Kishengarh Local Committees.

A sum of R3,427-9-0 was spent by the Provincial Committee under this head in purchasing 70 cases of "Mellin's Food," which were distributed among the several Local Committees.

The total expenditure under this head amounted to R1,33,643-7-1, of which R1,14,590-5-10 or 85·7 per cent. was paid to recognized or private orphanages, the number of orphans being 92,350, and R19,053-1-3 was spent in providing extra food, clothing or medical comforts to 15,355 orphans supported from State funds. The bulk of this expenditure was incurred by the Provincial Committee and the Local Committees of Kherwara and Kotra, Deoli, Kotah and Jhalawar, Western Rajputana States, Udaipur, and Ajmer. Nothing was spent under this object by the Abu, Dungarpur, Merwara, and Kushalgarh Local Committees. The Provincial Committee granted subsidies to the following orphanages:—

Expenditure and relief under Object II.

1. Dayan and orphanage, Ajmer (for completion of its building and maintenance of orphans)	R30,000
2. Rajputana Presbyterian Mission, Beawar for the maintenance of orphans	R40,000
3. Very Reverend Father Bertram, apostolic in Rajputana for the maintenance of orphans	R5,000
TOTAL	R75,000

The expenditure on the third object of the Fund amounted to R98,848-4-7, which relieved 172,019 persons. Of the total expenditure a sum of R53,001-8-7 was devoted to giving money and grain doles to the more respectable of the poor classes. The number of persons relieved was 159,872; R40,569-3-3 was spent in providing work to 6,860 respectable poor (not being artizans and petty shop keepers helped under Object IV).

Expenditure and relief under Object III.

The expenditure on the supply of clothing to the respectable poor (5,037 persons) amounted to R5,254-9-9 only.

A small amount of R22-15-0 was spent by the Kishengarh Committee in maintaining a cheap grain shop. The number of persons relieved was 250.

The heaviest expenditure under this head was incurred by the Ajmer, Kishengarh, Udaipur, Kotah, and Bikanir Local Committees. Relief under this head was afforded by all Local Committees.

By far the largest portion of the expenditure was upon relief under this most important object to which the Fund could be applied. Of the total expenditure on relief R22,97,924-14-1 under all heads, no less than R17,89,138-10-9 or 77·9 per cent. were spent in restoring to their original position, when acute distress was subsiding, those who had lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life. By the relief afforded under this head many cultivators were saved from losing their holdings, and sinking to the level of labourers.

Expenditure and relief under Object IV.

The bulk of the expenditure under this head, namely, R17,29,094-10-7, was incurred in providing seed, grain, fodder, bullocks, implements of husbandry or cash to purchase them to 319,441 destitute agriculturists.

A sum of R46,957-2-11 was spent in giving valedictory doles to 48,960

persons in receipt of Government or State relief, on the closing of the relief, and R13,086-13-3 was expended in helping 4,323 artizans and petty shop-keepers and the like not being the respectable poor relieved under Object III.

The bulk of the expenditure under this object was in Deoli (R3,04,451-15-11,) Western Rajputana States (R2,90,833-15-6), Kotah and Jhalawar (R2,74,852-14-11), Udaipur (R2,38,300-14-6), Bikanir (R1,38,764-15-9), Merwara (R1,16,402-2-8), Ajmer (R1,04,449-10-6), Kishengarh (R95,763-7-6), Kherwara and Kotra (R61,302-11-9), and Dungarpur (R60,102-6-4); sums expended by other Local Committees under this object were below R50,000. The Local Committee at Abu spent only R196 in giving valedictory doles to 38 persons to assist them in tiding over the time till they could obtain regular employment again.

The sum expended by the Provincial Committee under this head was R14-633-4-8. This item represents the expenditure incurred at the various relief depôts established to assist the returning emigrants.

Miscellaneous Expenditure.

The expenditure under this head comes to R33,660-11-2, of which R4,744-1-4 represent the office expenditure and R28,916-9-10 other expenditure. The heaviest expenditure has been shown in the Returns for Deoli, namely, R1,585-8-4. The bulk of the second head of charge. "Other expenditure" is found in the accounts for Deoli, R6,712-5-5, Kherwara R6,707-2-3, Kotah and Jhalawar, R4,616-14-10, Ajmer, R4,437-7-1 and Udaipur, R2,880-11-1. The Local Committees of Deoli, Kherwara, and Udaipur have included under this head, also conservancy charges, establishment charges and sums expended on the construction of shelters for the inmates of poor houses. In the figures of the Kotah Local Committee is included an item of R2,877-5-3 paid on account of discount on Kotah coins. In the figures of the Ajmer Local Committee has been included an item of R4,000 which they contributed as a donation to the Provincial Committee.

Bhartpur Local Committee.

The head quarters of most of the Local Committees were far from Ajmer, where allotments were made by the Provincial Committee and charges incurred in taking and remitting money from Ajmer were consequently large.

A sum of R7,512-11-6 was raised by the Bhartpur Local Committee, out of which R400 was remitted to the Central Executive Committee, Calcutta, and R4,318 was contributed to the Provincial Committee, and the rest was kept for local purposes. Out of the sum last referred to they expended R1,570-3-6 as under:—

	R
(1) Destitute cultivators	1,534-0-0
(2) Establishment and contingencies . . .	36-3-6
TOTAL .	1,570-3-6

and the unexpended balance, R1,224-8-0, has been deposited by them in the State Treasury. No grants were made to this Committee from the General Fund and they did not maintain accounts in the prescribed form nor were they submitted to the Provincial Committee monthly for incorporation into the Provincial Accounts.

Gift of food and clothing from the Central Committee and England.

Four bales of clothing, 9 dozen bottles of Mellin's Food, 4 tins of arrowroot, 3 boxes of condensed milk, and 20 ounces of sulphate of quinine, were received from the Central Committee.

Seventy cases of Mellin's Food were purchased by the Provincial Committee at reduced rates from Messrs. Mackenzie, Lyall and Co., Calcutta.

Establishment of Relief posts in Rajputana on the main lines of Communications.

At the commencement of the famine thousands of cultivators with their families and cattle left their villages, according to the usual custom, in search of work for themselves and of pasturage for their animals. From Marwar no less than 6 per cent. of the entire population emigrated. In the beginning of May 1900, the emigrants began to return to their homes from Malwa, Gwalior, and the trans-Jumna districts in increasing numbers along the principal high roads. The reduced physical condition of the returning emigrants and their cattle attracted the attention of the President, the Honourable Colonel Wyllie, then officiating Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana,

and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, who at once invited the co-operation of all Political Officers in Rajputana to devise simple measures of relief for the returning emigrants. It was suggested that on the main lines of communication relief depôts should be established, where shelter, food, and fodder for returning emigrants and cattle could be given gratis. Permission of the Central Executive Committee, Calcutta, was obtained to debit to the Charitable Relief Fund all expenditure incurred in providing for the needs of emigrants returning to their homes. The following statement shows the expenditure incurred on the relief of the returning emigrants in the various districts and States where relief depôts had been established. This expenditure was paid direct from this Committee on receipt of instructions from the President:—

Statement showing the expenditure incurred on the relief of returning emigrants by the various Local Committees of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

No.	Name of month.	Ajmer grass and depôt expenditure.	Kotah.	Kishengarh.	Deoli.	Bhartpur.	Udaipur.	Total.	Remarks.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	
1	June	232 2 9	...	...	...	...	...	232 2 9	
2	July	...	...	1,012 7 9	...	...	...	1,012 7 9	
3	August	1,121 9 2	311 0 0	...	412 4 9	37 2 6	...	1,882 0 5	
4	September	7 6 5	...	...	171 7 8	1,336 13 7	1,178 8 11	2,694 4 7	
5	October	0 2 3	1,001 4 4	1,033 11 3	40 3 10	2,509 12 0	600 0 0	5,185 1 8	
6	November	2,723 9 8	18 15 0	543 10 9	22 12 4	...	...	3,308 15 9	
7	December	...	...	...	66 0 9	...	252 3 0	318 3 9	
	TOTAL .	4,084 14 3	1,331 3 4	2,589 13 9	712 13 4	3,883 12 1	2,030 11 11	14,633 4 8	

It is needless to say that by the adoption of these means much of the suffering and mortality which would otherwise have resulted among the returning emigrants and cattle was averted.

Reservation of money for orphans after the close of the operations of the Committee.

The following statement shows the number of orphans on the hands of the various local Committees at the close of their operations and their monthly expenditure :—

No.	Names of Local Committees.	Number of orphans.	Monthly expenditure.	Remarks.
			R a. p.	
1	Western Raj States . . .	206	950 0 0	
2	Bikanir	16	30 0 0	
3	Kotah and Jhalawar . . .	129	600 0 0	
4	Kishengarh	5	15 0 0	
5	Deoli (Bundi, Tonk, Shahpura) . .	136	670 0 0	
6	Kherwara and Kotra . . .	23	80 0 0	
	TOTAL .	515	2,345 0 0	

For the maintenance of these orphans the Central Executive Committee have kindly handed over a grant of R80,000 to the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana, and Chief Commissioner Ajmer-Merwara, to be used according to his discretion.

* * * * * * *

Provincial Committee's grateful acknowledgments of assistance.

The Committee places on record with pleasure its cordial and sincere acknowledgments of the valuable services rendered by the Local Committees, their Chairman, and Honorary Secretaries. Notwithstanding the great strain at which they had to work they evinced great zeal and sympathetic interest in the performance of the laborious work of charitable relief and showed unremitted care and discretion in the distribution and proper application of the funds committed to their charge.

The good the fund has done is incalculable. It has saved thousands of the poor who cannot but express their deepest gratitude to those who came forward very willingly to their help.

The Provincial Committee desire to record their sincere thanks to the Central Executive Committee for the prompt, opportune, and liberal response made by it to our appeal for aid on behalf of the sorely stricken people of the province. The munificent grants made to us from time to time from the General Fund enabled our Local Committees to so organize and shape their operations as to be able to mitigate the sufferings of the people in all their diverse phases.

Audit of Accounts.

Rai Bahadur Pandit Jawahirlal, Deputy Collector, Cawnpore, has been deputed to audit the accounts of the Local Committees of Rajputana. He took up his duties on 16th March 1901 and has since been auditing the accounts. His report is expected shortly. From his weekly diaries it would appear that the accounts of the Fund were systematically kept by the Ajmer-Merwara, Abu, Kotah-Bikanir, Sirohi, Pertabgarh, Udaipur, and Shahpura Local Committees and those of the remaining Committees were not properly and satisfactorily maintained.

After the close of the operations of the Committee an application for a further grant for distribution amongst the Bhils of the Pertabgarh State

who are still in distress owing to the failure of their jowar crop was made by the Assistant Resident, Banswara and Pertabgarh, which was supported by the Resident, Mewar. After due consideration the Provincial Committee sanctioned a further grant of R15,000 on the 30th March 1901 for expenditure on the objects recognized by the Fund and directed that a separate account be opened for this grant.

The accounts of this sum will be submitted to the Central Committee in due course by the Assistant Resident through the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana.

Conclusion.

The office of the President of this Committee has been held successively by the Hon'ble Mr. A. H. T. Martindale, I.C.S., C.S.I., Hon'ble Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, I.S.C., C.I.E., and Hon'ble Colonel A. P. Thornton, I.C.S., and that of Vice-President by A. L. P. Tucker, Esq., I.C.S., and E. H. Blakesley, Esq., I.C.S, to whom the Committee's most grateful acknowledgments are due for their administering and directing the operations of the Committee with much judgment and success.

* * * * * * *

DAMODARLAL,

Honorary Secretary, Rojputana Provincial Committee.

FORM A.

Province of Rajputana.

Final accounts of the Rajputana Provincial Committee up to the end of May 1901.

No.	Receipts.	Amount. ₹ a. p.	Total Amount. ₹ a. p.	Expenditure.	Amount. ₹ a. p.	Total Amount. ₹ a. p.	Remarks.
	Remittances from Central Committee :—			1 Under Object I	2,42,633 12 6		
	(*a*) From General Fund	24,30,000 0 0		2 Ditto II	1,33,613 7 1		
	(*b*) Ear-marked subscription for the province	25 0 0	24,30,025 0 0	3 Ditto III	98,848 4 7		
				4 Ditto IV	17,89,138 10 9	22,64,264 2 11	
				5 Miscellaneous :—			
	Local Subscriptions—			(*a*) Office expenditure—			
	(*a*) Provincial Committee	14,822 14 0		Ajmer	917 4 7		
	(*b*) District Committees,—			Bikanir	40 0 0		
	Merwara	8,279 11 5		Banswara	25 0 0		
	Banswara	1,783 0 0		Deoli	1,585 8 4		
	Kishengarh	9,071 15 7		Dungarpur	224 1 8		
	Udaipur	8,770 2 6		Kishengarh	454 5 4		
	Kherwara	2,049 15 11		Merwara	76 12 5		
	Dungarpur	893 12 1		Pertabgarh	124 4 0		
	Pertabgarh	2,519 13 0		Western Rajputana States	14 1 3		
	Ajmer	29,337 10 10		Provincial Committee	1,282 11 9	4,744 1 4	
	Kotah and Jhalawar	16,796 4 0		(*b*) Other expenditure—			
	Abu	5,180 15 3	99,506 2 7	Ajmer	4,437 7 1		
				Bikanir	410 5 9		
				Banswara	332 0 0		
				Deoli	6,712 5 5		
				Dungarpur	11 6 8		
				Kherwara	6,707 2 3		
3	Other receipts :—			Kushalgarh	45 10 6		
	Abu	102 3 6		Kishengarh	771 12 0		
	Kherwara	27,288 13 4		Kotah and Jhalawar	4,616 14 10		
	Ajmer	3,437 4 8		Merwara	189 14 4		
	Kotah and Jhalawar	49,303 1 0		Pertabgarh	269 7 9		
	Banswara	56 6 6		Udaipur	2,880 11 1		
	Western Rajputana States	.....		Western Rajputana States	1,531 8 2	28,916 9 10	
	Kishengarh	668 0 3		Return to the Central Committee	1,00,000 0 0	1,00,000 0 0	
	Deoli	681 7 5		Remitted to Pertabgarh Accounts awaited	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	
	Udaipur	206 7 6		Balance with the District Committees to be recovered :—			
	Merwara	100 7 3		Kherwara	5,000 0 0		
	Dungarpur	400 0 0		Kotah	*6,336 10 5		*Said to have been a loss in grain dealing ; matter under enquiry.
	Provincial Committee	0 10 4	82,244 13 9	Deoli	†3,585 5 9	14,922 0 2	†Shown as unadjusted expenditure in the Local Committee's accounts.
				Closing Balance	1,83,929 2 1	1,83,929 2 1	
	Total	.....	26,11,776 0 4	Total		26,11,776 0 4	

DAMODARLAL,
Honorary Secretary, Rajputana Provincial Committee, Ajmer

Ajmere ;
The 28th June, 1901.

FORM C.

Province of Rajputana.

FINAL ACCOUNTS.

Statement of persons receiving Charitable Relief, chargeable to the Central Relief Fund, up to the end of 31st May 1901.

Object I.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
No.	Names of Local Committees.	By gift of clothing or blankets.		By addition of extra food or medical comforts in Government poor-houses hospitals, and kitchens.		By addition to Government dole in gratuitous relief.		Other forms of relief.		Total		Remarks.
		Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons relieved under Object I.	Cost.	
			₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.	
1	Western Raj. States	977	685 4 3	54,684	6,846 10 0	...	...	491	332 11 3	56,152	7,864 9 6	
2	Bikanir	1,102	482 0 7	1,562	1,267 15 5	750	250 0 0	...	...	3,414	2,000 0 0	
3	Kotah	29,932	31,769 4 6	...	5,605 11 6	...	...	...	...	29,932	37,375 0 0	
4	Kishengarh	617	359 7 9	2,746	2,210 12 6	15,129	5,311 4 9	12,671	2,519 15 6	31,103	10,401 8 6	
5	Abu	440	226 1 0	1,455	2,658 7 9	413	1,843 5 5	61	240 12 6	2,369	4,968 10 8	
6	Deoli	9,126	9,272 12 6	35,216	30,973 3 9	59,917	15,624 8 2	402	1,498 14 9	1,04,661	55,369 7 2	
7	Udaipur	14,937	13,809 14 7	32,113	2,669 10 9	5,920	2,467 10 6	...	...	52,970	18,947 3 10	
8	Kherwara	1,233	1,180 14 8	3,699	19,616 1 5	386	3,859 4 4	1,961	1,857 13 6	7,279	26,514 1 11	
9	Kotra											
10	Dungarpur	786	661 0 0	1,77,072	2,457 0 11	...	...	...	...	1,77,858	3,118 0 11	
11	Pertabgarh	705	436 14 6	4,014	264 15 9	2,519	1,113 5 9	798	1,239 0 0	8,036	3,054 4 0	
12	Banswara	402	402 0 0	1,981	3,400 5 9	1,200	1,008 2 3	...	...	3,583	4,810 8 0	
13	Ajmer	41,477	35,911 12 5	5,318	4,949 14 1	...	...	1,47,200	2,300 0 0	1,93,995	43,161 10 6	
14	Merwara	32,537	7,234 13 9	28,778	1,833 13 3	29,071	9,834 1 6	22,428	2,718 6 0	1,12,814	21,621 2 6	
15	Kushalgarh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
16	Provincial Committee	...	...	...	3,427 9 0	...	...	...	...	...	3,427 9 0	
	TOTAL	134,271	1,02,432 4 6	348,638	88,182 3 10	115,305	39,311 10 8	186,012	12,707 9 6	784,226	2,42,633 12 6	

DAMODARLAL,

Honorary Secretary, Rajputana Provincial Committee, Ajmer.

FORM C.

Province of Rajputana.

Statement of persons receiving Charitable Relief, chargeable to the Central Relief Fund, to the end of 31st May 1901.

Object II.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	Names of Local Committees.	By Subsidies to private orphanages.		By addition of extra food or clothing or medical comforts to orphans supported from State funds.		Total		Remarks.
		No. of orphans in the subsidized orphanages.	Amount of subsidies.	No. of orphans supplied.	Cost.	No. of orphans (cols. 3 and 5.)	Cost.	
			₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.	
1	Western Rajputana States	1,861	6,285 12 5	11,509	3,422 7 4	13,370	9,708 3 9	
2	Bikanir	162	267 15 6	.....	.....	162	267 15 6	
3	Kotah	79,115	10,221 3 0	500	500 0 0	79,615	10,721 3 0	
4	Kishengarh	582	158 0 0	513	33 1 9	1,095	494 1 9	
5	Abu	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
6	Deoli	4,068	7,107 5 1	2,191	7,022 14 7	6,259	14,130 3 8	
7	Udaipur	2,058	3,928 2 9	.....	.....	2,058	3,928 2 9	
8	Kherwara	2,944	8,417 9 1	268	6,199 4 0	3,212	14,616 13 1	
9	Kotra							
10	Dungarpur	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
11	Pertabgarh	25	42 0 0	.....	.....	25	42 0 0	
12	Banswara	250	812 6 0	332	687 10 0	582	1,500 0 0	
13	Ajmer	1,285	2,350 0 0	42	884 11 7	1,327	3,234 11 7	
14	Merwara	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
15	Kushalgarh	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
16	Provincial Committee	.....	75,000 0 0	.....	.....	.....	75,000 0 0	
	Total	92,350	1,14,590 5 10	15,355	19,053 1 3	107,705	1,33,643 7 1	

DAMODARLAL,

Honorary Secretary, Rajputana Provincial Committee, Ajmer.

FORM C.

Province of Rajputana.

Statement of persons receiving Charitable Relief, chargeable to the Central Relief Fund, to the end of 31st May 1901.

Object III.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
No.	Names of Local Committees.	By gift of clothing or blankets.		By money or grain dole.		By means of cheap grain shop.		By providing work in their trade to respectable poor (not being the artizans and petty shop-keepers etc., helped under Object IV.)		Total		Remarks.
		Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons.	Cost.	Number of persons, *i.e.*, who receive grain shop tickets.	Cost (*i.e.*, net loss to Fund resulting from the operations of the shop.)	Number of persons.	Net amount spent after taking into account profit and loss to Fund by sale or disposal of articles delivered in return for advances of money or materials made to them.	Number of persons relieved under Object III.	Cost.	
			₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.	
1	Western Rajputana States	128	115 13 0	1,689	5,052 8 3	...	...	...	...	1,817	5,168 5 3	
2	Bikanir	15	150 0 0	...	...	...	...	2,218	7,850 0 0	2,233	8,000 0 0	
3	Kotah	...	...	135,908	8,128 5 10	...	...	...	...	135,908	8,128 5 10	
4	Kishengarh	1,928	1,207 6 3	7,382	11,810 10 0	250	22 15 0	1,826	601 1 0	11,386	13,642 0 3	
5	Abu	1,899	1,300 9 9	2,400	1,482 2 9	...	...	...	...	4,299	2,782 12 6	
6	Deoli	517	2,149 14 6	1,217	2,514 0 0	...	...	158	248 1 9	1,892	4,912 0 3	
7	Udaipur	334	256 14 3	3,843	8,528 15 9	...	...	12	650 0 0	4,189	9,435 14 0	
8	Kherwara	...	...	26	192 0 3	...	...	1	6 0 0	27	198 0 3	
9	Kotra											
10	Dungarpur	...	...	681	757 12 6	...	...	...	...	681	757 12 6	
11	Pertabgarh	...	...	1,341	3,530 1 9	...	...	...	...	1,341	3,530 1 9	
12	Banswara	...	...	831	4,121 12 9	...	...	...	...	831	4,121 12 9	
13	Ajmer	...	...	3,713	5,390 0 0	...	...	2,645	31,214 0 6	6,358	36,604 0 6	
14	Merwara	216	74 0 0	721	993 2 9	...	...	...	...	937	1,067 2 9	
15	Kushalgarh	...	...	120	500 0 0	...	...	...	...	120	500 0 0	
	Total	5,037	5,254 9 9	159,872	53,001 8 7	2 50	22 15 0	6,860	40,569 3 3	172,019	98,848 4 7	

DAMODARLAL,

Honorary Secretary, Rajputana Provincial Committee, Ajmer.

FORM C.

Province of Rajputana.

Statement of persons receiving Charitable Relief, chargeable to the Central Relief Fund, to the end of 31st May 1901.

Object IV.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No.	Names of Local Committees.	By giving seed grain, fodder, bullocks implements of husbandry, or cash to purchase them to brokendown agriculturists.		By helping artizans and petty shop-keepers and the like (not being the respectable poor in cols. 9 and 10 under Object III.)		By valedictory doles to persons in receipt of government relief on closing of such relief.		Total		Remarks.
		Number of agriculturists relieved.	Cost.	Number of persons helped	Cost.	Number of persons receiving the doles.	Cost.	Number of persons helped and relieved under Object IV.	Cost.	
			R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.		R a. p.	
1	Western Rajputana States	61,520	2,85,714 5 0	354	3,742 0 0	3,033	1,377 10 6	64,907	2,90,833 15 6	
2	Bikanir	21,851	1,38,764 15 9	...	...	...	...	21,851	1,38,764 15 9	
3	Kotah	21,456	2,74,852 14 11	...	...	...	...	21,456	2,74,852 14 11	
4	Kishengarh	16,992	94,574 15 6	747	1,128 4 6	44	60 3 6	17,783	95,763 7 6	
5	Abu	...	...	...	...	38	196 0 0	38	196 0 0	
6	Deoli	27,953	2,95,489 2 1	90	758 0 0	16,088	8,204 13 10	44,131	3,04,451 15 11	
7	Udaipur	112,958	2,07,576 3 2	1,320	1,522 11 0	26,488	29,202 0 4	140,766	2,38,300 14 6	
8	Kherwara	12,812	59,079 14 3	6	1,127 0 6	6	1,095 13 0	12,824	61,302 11 9	
9	Kotra									
10	Dungarpur	8,185	60,182 6 4	...	...	...	...	8,185	60,182 6 4	
11	Pertabgarh	6,108	40,451 11 6	8	48 0 0	...	...	6,116	40,499 11 6	
12	Banswara	9,536	42,880 1 9	...	...	90	170 0 0	9,626	43,050 1 9	
13	Ajmer	5,703	93,038 3 6	1,798	4,760 13 3	3,173	6,650 9 9	10,674	1,04,449 10 6	
14	Merwara	13,177	1,16,402 2 8	...	...	...	...	13,177	1,16,402 2 8	
15	Khushalgarh	1,190	5,454 5 6	...	...	...	...	1,190	5,454 5 6	
16	Provincial Committee	...	14,633 4 8	...	...	...	...	...	14,633 4 8	
	Total	319,441	17,29,094 10 7	4,323	13,086 13 3	48,960	46,957 2 11	372,724	17,89,138 10 9	

DAMODARLAL

Honorary Secretary, Rajputana Provincial Committee, Ajmer.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

I.—MARWAR.

Marwar lies in a semi-desert region. Its western half is away from the direct influence of both the monsoons. It is the cyclonic diversions from the main current that favour it with rains just sufficient to raise a kharif. It is the lightness of the soil that helps in yielding a crop with so small a rainfall. The eastern tract lying between the Aravallis and the Luni partly holds a secure position on account of wells, but these in their turn depend for their water-supply on the rains as they are situated on or near the banks of rivers which are not perennial ; so that Marwar, on the whole, mainly depends on the year's rainfall for its water-supply and the failure of the rains leads inevitably to the failure of the kharif and grass. But the present disaster, through which we have just passed, is not the result of a single unfavourable season, but is an outcome of a succession of bad years.

The cycle of bad harvests in Marwar may generally be said to have commenced in 1895-96 when nearly half of the country with a population of 760 thousand souls was labouring under the effects of scarcity.

In the following year Marwar enjoyed a comparative immunity from distress, but the heavy strain on the resources of the country by the heavy export of grain to neighbouring provinces which were in distress raised the prices to the scarcity pitch.

The year 1897-98 was a year of scanty rainfall and did not help in replenishing the grain stocks. The next, *i. e.*, the one preceding the dire calamity was but a shadow of the coming disaster as the kharif crop was everywhere much below the average and the fodder crop totally failed ; so that the resources of the country were completely run out when the calamitous year brought on further misfortunes. It may, however, be stated that the vast majority of the people are either agriculturists themselves or dependant on agriculture in some shape or other. According to the census of 1891 about 40 per cent. are returned as agriculturists and artizans ; and village menials who claim a respectable percentage of 30 are truly speaking agricultural labourers. It will show that the failure of rain in Marwar is not a partial but a general calamity as it hits the majority.

Rainfall in 1899.

The average rainfall of the country is 16·25 inches but during the year under review, the first three months were literally as they generally are, rainless months throughout the province. April brought a few passing showers in Bali, Nagore and Nawa only. In May there was a slightly better distributed fall, particularly in the western districts, though in quantity it hardly exceeded the April figures. June was the month of the most widely distributed and copious rainfall, but in July which gives the heaviest and best distributed fall of the year it abruptly ceased and a greater part of the country got not a cent of rain and in the rest it did not exceed 3·93 cents. The August rain failed disastrously and the meagre rains of September only intensified instead of allaying the alarm ; thus October and November were altogether rainless and December brought half an inch to Godwar and an insufficient quantity to three other parganas.

The inevitable consequence of this was that universal drought prevailed throughout the length and breadth of Marwar.

The prevailing scarcity was the worst of its kind being a "Tinkal" Triple Famine, and in the living memory of an ascetic aged 108 years who had been the eye witness of the severest famine on record, *viz.*, that of 1812, the last famine is said to have far surpassed it in the intensity of distress as the mortality amongst the cattle during that year was not so terrific.

Crops.

In some of the parganas where the June monsoon had commenced well, agricultural operations were taken in hand. But the long break that followed

proved disastrous to the standing crop. The kharif was therefore a complete failure and the winter crop raised on unirrigated areas was equally unsuccessful. A portion of the kharif crop (maize) was raised by well irrigation but the produce was insignificant. In the area under well irrigation there was a shrinkage of about 70 per cent.

The state of the fodder crop was still worse to which fact may solely be attributed the frightful mortality of cattle, as also the setting in of the stream of emigration of the cattle owners, to the usually favoured localities, such as Malwa, Guzrat and the Punjab, to which places Marwaries, it might be said, have almost secured a prescriptive right of emigration from time immemorial, but as these countries were also in distress, the sufferings of the dumb cattle and their bewildered owners can better be imagined than described.

Under the direction of the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General, a local committee was formed on 12th April 1900 in the Western Rajputana States for distribution of charitable grant funds for local relief purposes on the lines of the Ajmere Committee and under the Presidentship of the *ex-officio* Resident. It consisted of the following members :—

1. Maharaj Dhiraj Colonel Sir Pratap Singh.
2. Captain J. W. Grant.
3. Rev. Dr. J. Sommerville.
4. Miss C. Adams.
5. Rao Bahadur Pandit Sukhdeo Prashad, B. A.
6. Thakur Shiv Nath Singh.
7. Kaivraja Murardan.
8. Kalla Sheodutt.
9. Mr. Ardshir P. Jal.

Subscriptions.

* * * * * * * * * * *

People are reluctant to supply figures as to the money spent by them in alleviating the miseries of their brethern in distress, as they think a secret charity, "Gupta Dharm" has its special merit and a higher reward in the next world. As far as it can be gathered the public of Marwar had contributed no less than Rs. 2,50,000. Mallani Ram Gopal's charities were as munificent as they were effective. It is pleasing to know that the Supreme Government has been pleased to recognize it suitably by awarding a silver Kaiser-i-Hind to the charitable Seth.

So far has been said of the internal aid, but the part played by external aid has been far superior and deserves a more grateful mention. The generous grant-in-aid from the Chartitable Fund received through the Rajputana Committee was of inestimable assistance, and the Marwar Darbar owes a deep debt of gratitude to the British public for their munificent and prompt gift to mitigate the sufferings of the people of this country in this severe long continued and widespread distress, and its warm acknowledgments are also due to the local Committee for allotting and granting a lion's share of the grant to Marwar.

Details and Distribution of Relief.

Object I.

A sum of Rs. 1,339-5-6 was laid out under this head in which the principal item is that of medical comforts, costing Rs. 868-3. Next to it comes the relief to stragglers and the gifts of clothes and blankets to the inmates of the poor-houses.

The stragglers who were thus relieved and the waifs to whom the clothes and blankets were distributed were generally pity exciting cases, who had been reduced to the last stage of destitution.

Object II.

A sum of R7,570-1-10 was expended up to the end of November as subsidies to the State orphanages which are two in number, separate accommodations being provided for male and female orphans. The latter were placed under the charge of a school mistress who looks after them and teaches needle-work. A

female compounder is kept there. Special attention was devoted to the collection of the female children with a view to provide against their falling in the hands of persons of notorious character.

The strength of these two institutions has ranged from 700 to 1,000 during the famine.

The children, who are mostly of low castes, are being initiated in agriculture and after the orphanages are dissolved, they will be settled in khalsa villages.

Object III.

The number of persons relieved under this head was comparatively small as no more than Rs. 1,868-5-3 were spent under this object. It was exclusively confined to the town of Jodhpore.

The arrangements made by the Darbar for the relief of secluded ladies and "safed kalandars," as the respectable but indigent persons are locally known as, were so elaborate that the Charitable Grant Fund was not largely availed of.

Object IV.

By far the largest volume of relief was administered under this head which claims 86·4 per cent. of the total allotment, and its importance cannot be overrated since it has tended to secure the revival of agricultural operations which form the mainstay of this country and which had been greatly paralised by the unprecedented drought. Although such a large sum as Rs. 2,47,626-8-9 was devoted to meet the bare necessities of agriculture, yet it cannot be denied that fullest measures of relief could not be provided to each and all the Marwari peasants who sorely needed relief, nevertheless a large majority of them have thus been restored to their original vocation and the bountiful kharif which we would have reaped had not the fatal fever intervened, and an excellent rabi which is standing, are in no small degree to be attributed to the relief so afforded.

The objects covered by this section were sub-divided into:—

1. Distribution of hand-ploughs.
2. Provision of plough cattle.
3. *Tacavi* advances for seed and subsistance allowance.

The terrific mortality in cattle represents another and graver aspect of the loss the country has sustained.

Happily a pattern of hand plough was imported from Bombay which was subsequently improved by the local carpenters and it is satisfactory to note that the ploughs so improved cost less than the Bombay pattern.

However useful these ploughs may be they cannot supersede the use of cattle. To get cattle therefore engaged the serious attention of the Darbar, but as the distress was of a serious and widespread nature remote countries such as Malwa and Central India had to be exploited. It may be noted that a special concession in the rates of the cattle freights was secured from the Bombay Baroda and Central Indian Railway.

The distribution of cattle was made on the spot under the personal supervision of Lieutenant Menzies whose services were kindly lent by the Supreme Government for famine. At Jodhpore His Highness the Maharaja himself undertook the task.

The Hakims had orders to keep the persons and lists ready, and the distributing officer after satisfying himself allotted the required number of cattle to the agriculturists.

Money grants to purchase seeds to sow the land were also simultaneously given through the Hakims, and their distributions were subsequently checked by Lieutenant Menzies and three Inspecting officers, who made personal enquiries from the recipient. The sum thus distributed was Rs. 7,712-12-0 to 2,242 persons.

The people were loth to accept charitable gifts, and as the pervading spirit of the donors was to help the destitute, advances were first made as loans, and when the money was utilized by the recipient, these advances were turned into gifts.

II.—BIKANIR.

The famine of 1899-1900 was most severe and wide-spread affecting practically the whole of the State which covers an area of 22,340 square miles and contains a population of 8,32,000 according to the census of February 1891.

The cause of the present famine was of course the failure of the rains in 1899, but its severity was intensified by the almost total failure of crops during the two preceding years. The rainfall in this State is always precarious, the average fall for the whole year being nearly 11 inches.

The State comprises sandy tracts, devoid of any artificial irrigation, and depends almost entirely for its food supply on the rain crops, the proportion of the kharif to the rabi crop being 90 to 10.

On receipt of information in April 1900, that a grant was to be made for certain branches of famine relief by the Calcutta Central Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, a local Committee was formed to allot judiciously under the various objects, and to supervise the distribution of grants. It consisted of—

President.

Captain Bayley, and thereafter Colonel Vincent.

Members.

Major W. H. B. Robinson, I.M.S.
Mr. R. W. Clarke.
S. Hammiduzzaffar Khan.
Thakur Dip Singh.
Mr. J. Swaris, *Honorary Secretary.*

In the meeting of the 9th May, it was resolved that a Committee be appointed for the prompt and effective distribution, to cultivators, of money that might be received from the Indian Charitable Fund. A Committee was accordingly formed.

Another Committee was formed to determine the measure of relief for the poor but respectable persons and *purdahnashin* women.

No special staff was engaged for office work.

The Diwan conducted the operations in consultation with the Famine Committee, money being deposited in the State Treasury and the accounts kept by the Treasury clerk who was given an allowance of Rs per mensem out of the fund. His Highness Major the Maharaja took a keen interest in the scheme from beginning to end, and it was at His Highness' suggestion that the distribution of most of the money, especially to the distressed cultivators, was made. The greatest precaution was taken in distributing cash amongst cultivators to guard against swindling. Large sums were distributed at Sadder at the time of the breaking up of the camps, by Major Robinson, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, Sahibzadah Hammiduzzaffar Khan, Diwan, and Thakur Dip Singh, Central Famine Officer, and at Gajner by Thakur Bahadur Singh, Member, State Council. In the interior the distribution was not left in the hands of Tahsildars, but Sardars and other trustworthy officials of rank were deputed to associate with the local authorities in making cash payments. It is satisfactory to note that this precaution had the desired effect as not a single case of extortion or fraud was brought to notice.

As the first instalment of the grant was received at the end of June, the distribution of the money among agriculturists and those living in remote parts of the State was not found possible till the middle of July. Further, owing to the shortness of the time and the desire of the cultivators to go back to their villages from the camps when the first rain fell, the Committee could not help them with cattle or seed. The only alternative left, therefore, was to help them in cash and let them buy their own cattle and seeds. To meet this object, lists of *bonâ-fide* broken down cultivators were sent for from the various tahsils and camp centres, and at the time of the distribution the claims of every individual were dealt with personally on their own merits.

No local subscriptions were given for this fund, as the well-to-do money-lending classes had already contributed largely towards the State Famine Fund,

and also because a good many of them had continued distributing alms to the city beggars daily up to the end of the famine. As a rule, the rich Mahajans prefer to continue their dole alms called "Sadabarat" to contributing a lump sum towards any Central Fund.

Out of R1,56,000, the Committee expended R1,49,483-5-0 up to the end of January 1901, under the various heads and objects given below:—

			R	a.	p.
(1)	Object I		2,000	0	0
(2)	,, II		267	15	6
(3)	,, III		8,000	0	0
(4)	,, IV		1,38,764	15	9
(5)	Miscellaneous	(*a*) office expenses	40	0	0
		(*b*) other expenditure	410	5	9
(6)	Advances made		0	0	0
		TOTAL	1,49,483	5	0

Object I.

One thousand one hundred and two persons received clothing worth R482-7-0, consisting of petticoats, shirts, chadars, quilted razais, coats, etc. This was, of course, a great boon to infirm and old people and children who, no doubt, appreciated a covering, in some cases almost as much as the food grain. One thousand two hundred and sixty-two persons received R1,267-15-5 for extra food and medical comforts in poor-houses and hospitals, and by addition to the standard dole in gratuitous relief R250 were spent on 750 persons. The total cost under this object was R2,000, and the number of persons relieved 3,114.

Object II.

Under this head, 162 orphans were maintained at a cost of R267-15-6, which includes their clothing. The orphans were brought on the Charitable Fund list from September only. Before that they were attached to the different camps and fed by the State. There are still 17 unclaimed orphans on the list not big enough to earn their own livelihood, and hence it is not certain how long they will have to be maintained. Major Robinson very kindly undertook to supervise the distribution of the money under these two objects, and he not only took great interest in the work, but accomplished it most judiciously and economically.

Object III.

Under this head, R150 was spent on clothing and R7,850 in relieving the poor but respectable persons. The Sub-Committee, I must mention here, took great pains in selecting the *bonâ-fide* respectable persons for the relief, and there is no doubt this special relief was quite opportune. There are certain families of high birth who would endure almost any privations rather than apply for Government relief, and it need hardly be pointed out that by this timely help some of the families were saved from the oppressive measures of the money-lenders and starvation. Two thousand two hundred and thirty-three persons were relieved at a cost of R8,000 under this object.

Object IV.

The greatest portion of the fund was utilized under this most important head. The cultivating classes had suffered most in the famine, and they, therefore, deserved a greater share of the charity. They were helped in various ways, such as with cash for seed, grain, and bullock, and by gift of bullocks and implements of husbandry. There can be no question that the vast cultivation of the kharif crop by the absolutely destitute and broken down cultivators may, in a large measure, be accounted for by this generous help. The sum of R51,000 received between August and October was mostly utilised in

buying cattle and advancing money for seeds to induce people in the northern tahsils to grow rabi where the cultivation of this crop, in the bed of the Ghaggar and in the sandy soil, was practicable, for without cattle the cultivation of this soil would have been almost impossible.

Rupees 5,095-8 were spent in giving rabi seeds. This scheme of encouraging the cultivation of crops by means of State advances to the ordinary cultivators and Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund free gifts to others has, I am glad to say, so far had its desired effect and the area under rabi cultivation, in spite of the lingering effects of the famine, is comparatively large this year.

The hand plough was the chief factor required at the commencement of the kharif cultivation, the bullocks in the State being mostly dead and new ones not easily and cheaply available from outside. On the sandy ridges where land is not prepared for kharif cultivation but ploughing and sowing is done at one and the same time, the hand plough is of great use. The locally made wooden wheeled-plough was approved of, of which 1,538 were made and distributed in different tahsils.

The artisans and petty shop-keepers seem to have had enough work to support themselves in different towns and they needed no relief.

As has already been alluded to great care was taken in making direct cash payments to the cultivators. As for the purchase of cattle, reliable officials were deputed and vouchers were obtained and kept in the Accounts Office under the supervision of the Treasury Officer. No item was charged without an allotment and previous sanction of the President, and no expenses passed or paid without the sanction of the Diwan.

There are no particular incidents to be mentioned in this report, but I might add that the Charitable Fund has gained a great popularity, and by giving aid from this source at the close of the famine the donors have actually received the blessings of the sufferers. This State is peculiarly liable to periodic famines but the last one eclipsed all its predecessors in severity and duration. Of course the State did all it could to relieve the sufferings of the afflicted, but had its efforts not been supplemented by the timely aid of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund the reinstating of the returning emigrants, with a fairly adequate supply of funds to begin life a-fresh, would not have been so well carried on. I cannot close this without expressing how deeply the local Committee is indebted to the donors for the aid so generously given to strengthen its hands.

III. KOTAH STATE.

The whole State comprising an area of 5,673 square miles with a population of 719,061 (census of 1891) was affected by the famine which both in extent and intensity was the severest ever known.

The chief causes of distress were the almost total failure of the autumn crop, consequent on the abrupt and early cessation of the monsoon, and the failure of the spring crop, consequent on the total absence of any autumn or winter rain. During three years previous to 1899 the rainfall had been either deficient in quantity or unequal in distribution, or both. In 1899 only 15 inches 37 cents fell, of which 7 inches and 29 cents fell in one day, *viz.*, on the 8th July. After this date the rain practically ceased.

Endowed with a rich soil yielding abundantly with a minimum of labour, the people are naturally indolent and improvident. Indeed the State has not undeservedly been called the granary of Rajputana and has been resorted to from times immemorial by large numbers of refugees who have here found for themselves and their flocks that sustenance which their own country was not able to give in years of scarcity.

The opening of the Goona Baran Railway facilitated the export of food grains and depleted the grain stocks, the people being tempted to export by the high prices offered. This caused a rise in prices within the State which continued till at times the prices in the districts at a distance from the railway exceeded those at the grain depôts near the railway—a state of affairs hitherto unknown. When the monsoon of 1900 burst the bad state of internal communications prevented the free import of grain. The result was that in Kotah

city towards the end of September wheat gave out altogether and only maize was procurable.

Another cause of distress was the immigration of vast hords of foreigners with their cattle. This can only be classified as a cause in the sense of its having been an aggravating cause. At one crossing over the Chambal alone 68,029 foreigners and 93,476 cattle passed into the State between the months of August and December. The consequence of the invasion was to further force up the prices of commodities whilst its effects on the grass lands were disastrous—the cattle treading down and destroying whatever they did not consume.

It was about the middle of February 1900 that the people began to feel the pinch of distress. By April a large majority of cultivators had not only disposed of the few trinkets and brass vessels they possessed, but had sold their ploughs and other agricultural implements. Many of them even parted with the very tiles off their roofs. *Tacavi* for the construction of wells was given by the State to the extent of over two lakhs, and various small irrigation works were started. This aid not being considered sufficient, the earthwork of the Baran-Kotah Railway was commenced. The people, however, unaccustomed to famine, were slow to resort to this means of earning a livelihood. The pargana officials reported that many preferred to die in their villages rather than go a few miles to a relief work. The trees in the forests and along the roads were stripped of their bark for food. Roots, herbs and in fact anything that could be reduced to powder was eaten. The mortality among the cattle was very great and even plough bullocks were sold owing not only to the prohibitive cost of keeping them, but often to the impossibility of procuring fodder.

Subscriptions in aid of the famine-stricken were made on a liberal scale in the Kotah city. In January 1900 a fund was started for the relief of the respectable poor and *parda-nashin* women of the city and a sum of R11,242-3-0 was subscribed. This sum was not credited to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

On receipt of letter No. 38, dated 27th February 1900, from the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Rajputana, to the address of the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, the Political Agent formed a local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. It was constituted as follows:—

Major C. G. F. Fagan, Political Agent, *President.*
Maharaja Jai Singh of Bamulia.
R. H. Tickell Esq., State Engineer.
Revd. W. Bonnar.
Rai Bahadar Chobai Raghunath Das, Dewan.
Babu Brij Lal, vice-President, Kotah Municipality.
Bhyrub Chandar Mookerji, Head Clerk, Agency, *Honorary Secretary,*

In July a meeting was called by His Highness the Maharao, at which subscriptions were invited on behalf of a Fund for the purchase of medical comforts, blankets, and extra necessaries for the poor. A sum of R13,380-4-0 koldar was subscribed and was utilised in the purchase of extra quinine, blankets, medicine and hospital comforts, such as rum, etc.

Similar good work was done by other public minded people.

The United Free Church Mission represented by the Reverend W. Bonnar did excellent work in relieving the poor and rescuing orphans. The following extract from a letter, dated 26th September 1900, from Mr. Bonnar, will give an idea of the work done—

> "I need not recapitulate to you all that has been done by our Mission during the past many months in the way of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, let me only remind you that the average number daily fed by me last month, August, was 1,028, the total number of women and children, whom I decently and comfortably clothed, exceeded 600, and the number of children whom I rescued from a painful death cannot have been much less than 1,000."

The local Committee first met on the 2nd July 1900. After this there were meetings from time to time in order to transact business. In all five meetings were held. The Committee after careful consideration unanimously decided that nothing would be more far-reaching in its effects and of more lasting benefit than restoring to their former condition, as far as possible, the cultivators ruined by the famine. Hence a sum of R2,22,000 was allotted for this purpose.

Object I.

Twenty-one thousand five hundred and thirty nine persons were supplied with clothing or blankets at a cost of ₹22,403-12-11. As far as possible clothes and blankets were distributed in the city by the members of the local Committee. In places at a distance they were distributed by local officials such as Nazims, Tahsildars and Hospital Assistants. ₹4,398-14 were spent on quinine and other medicines.

Object II.

Seventy-eight thousand nine hundred and twenty-three orphans (units) were maintained and cared for at a cost of ₹10,721-3.

Object III.

One lakh thirty-five thousand nine hundred and eight, or at a daily average of 641 *pardah-nashin* women and persons of respectable classes received doles of grain from August 1900 to February 1901 at a cost of ₹8,128-5-10.

Object IV.

Adopting the mode of preparing lists of deserving cultivators laid down by the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General (in his letter No. 2381, dated the 4th June 1900, to the address of the Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajputana Provincial Committee, Ajmer), the pargana officials were ordered to submit the names of all persons in want of *tacavi* for bullocks, seed, and agricultural implements in their districts. Against each man's name was shown the area of the land he held, the number of his family, amount of arrears of land revenue for the last three years standing against him and whether he could or could not furnish security for the *tacavi* required. These returns were prepared (so far as the cultivators were aware) in the manner they are annually prepared for *tacavi*, and it was concealed from them that any new departure was contemplated. The original proposal was that the Charitable Fund money should be distributed by senior revenue officers deputed from headquarters, but on the monsoon bursting, the President considered that delay in distribution would be detrimental and help arrive too late for the sowing of the kharif crops. Orders were, therefore, at once issued to the Nazims and Tahsildars to give *tacavi* to all recommended in their lists and to provide against possible fraud it was ordered that no cash payments were to be made but that bullocks, seed, etc., required should be distributed in kind. While this was done the revenue officers scrutinized the lists and selected the names of the cultivators to be relieved from the Fund. Their guiding principle was that those recorded as unable to furnish security, or largely in arrears in their revenue payments should be selected for free gifts from the Fund and the remainder treated under the current *tacavi* system of the State. Ratwaris and others, who might otherwise have been actuated by interested motives in the preparation of the lists, were thus prevented from taking any undue advantage of their influential position.

In certain of the parganas the distribution of grain was personally superintended by the revenue officers, but where this was not possible they checked the payments made by the pargana officials and their subordinates.

Twenty-three thousand two hundred and thirty-four cultivators were relieved under this object at a cost of ₹2,25,410-11-6 as detailed below :—

Cattle, seed, or implements, etc., distributed.	Number of cultivators relieved.	Amount. ₹	a.	p.
Cattle	2,203	31,556	6	0
Seed	16,815	1,68,401	1	0
Agricultural implements	612	2,414	6	6
Subsistence of cultivators and family	535	8,025	0	0
More than one of the above objects	3,015	15,013	14	0
		2,25,410	11	6

Lieutenant Peacock, 31st Regiment, Punjab Infantry, in an extensive tour through 11 parganas, examined many of these payments and was satisfied with the result. It is, of course, quite possible that in extensive operations of this nature, where time was of such importance and high officials few in number, that there may have been cases of petty fraud. An example was made of two Patwaris who were detected in peculation and this served as a warning to others. The Dewan, however, is of opinion that it can be safely stated that on the whole, the distribution of the fund money was faithfully and fairly carried out. There being no cash payments there was not so much room for peculation as if such payments had been made.

To the cultivators of the Jagir and Mafi villages cash payments were however made through the Jagirdar, Mafidar or his agent. It was noticed that in some cases these free gifts were received with suspicion, and a few Jagirdars even refused them point blank and their villagers, following their example, could not be induced to accept the same. To remove all doubt as to the nature of the relief it was made clear by the late President, Major Fagan, and the Dewan when on tour, that the money was a free gift and would not have to be repaid even in part by the recipients or their Jagirdars, but nothing would induce them to accept it. The generality of the people could not understand how and by whom the money was contributed for their relief. They first considered it was the State which was doing all this for them, but it was explained to them that they owed it to the munificence of the people of the various nationalities of the world.

The following is a description of interesting incidents noticed by the Revd. W. Bonnar:—

"In the months of October and November 1899, cattle were being sold for one rupee or two rupees a head, or for about one-fortieth of their value: after November they were unsaleable at any price. One day in my rounds amongst the villages I saw a handsome pair of Marwari bullocks lying outside a hamlet: they had just strength enough left to whisk their tails and flap their long ears to keep the flies away. In talking to one of the people of the hamlet I asked him why so valuable a pair was being allowed to die of starvation. 'Feed them,' I said, 'till the rains come and you will easily get R200 for them then.' The man looked at me with such a sad sickly smile that it made me feel as if I had been mocking him in his misery and he quietly replied—'my children and I are in the same sad plight, we have nothing to eat and no hope but in death.' One day I met a large family group of four generations with a flock and herd and some carts still in their possession. They were Rajputs, and the head of the family was a handsome, white-haired, old man, whose finely cut features and air of self-respect and quiet dignity indicated birth and breeding. I halted and had a talk with him, poor old man! his story was very pitiful—they had fled (in an evil hour, he had come to think) from their own land of death (Marwar) only to find that death was pursuing them everywhere; and now at length wearied and in utter despair they had resolved to return and meet death in their own quiet village. He could hardly be persuaded to let me help him; and in the end I drove off hurriedly and on looking back I saw him standing where I left him as if he had not yet realized the meaning of this brief interview. Again and again I have seen the same high self-respect in the Marwari. Two years before then, when there was a partial famine in Marwar, many came as refugees with their flocks and herds into Haraoti where they spent the greater part of the year. In my cold weather tours in the district I saw much of them then. One day two young Marwaris rendered me a small service for which I offered them a piece of silver. With a grateful salaam they gently declined accepting it, saying that what they had done they had done with pleasure and would gladly do again. I said, 'have it for tobacco,' at which they smiled, and assured me that they did not smoke. Now, I knew that those two youths could with difficulty scrape together enough for a living, yet they refused my offer of what would have provided about three days' food for the pair of them.

"Some of those, who were being daily fed by me and who had been fed daily for months, died in the most unexpected and disappointing way: while others who seemed beyond all hope eventually recovered. One poor fellow, a blind man, who was never heard to complain, lay down one day under a tree beside several others to rest himself while the bread was being baked. After an hour or so when I came to distribute the food blind Dewa was still lying there, *but dead*, no one knew that he was dying; he passed away without a moan, probably in sleep. On three different occasions during the daily distribution of food in the city I was startled to hear that a baby had just been born amongst the crowd who were waiting for their daily dole. On one of those occasions it came on to rain a few minutes after the birth, and in the hurry and confusion caused by the sharp showers I forgot all about the poor woman till some hours after. I greatly feared that both mother and baby must have died; but no, there she was next day to receive her food and to present the little mite who had so suddenly appeared and in such

untoward circumstances. During the shower she had picked up her baby and walked to one of my orphanage-houses about a couple of hundred yards distant. There she spent the night and had free quarters for the next two or three weeks.

"A rather remarkable feature of the famine, so far as Rajputana was concerned, and one, which arrested the attention of many, was the greater mortality amongst men than amongst women. It may have been, as was suggested to me, a proof that the women had greater staying power than men; perhaps it may have been due to the fact that in normal circumstances men are much larger eaters than women and in a time of famine when no one can get anything to eat the men consequently suffer more. Of the thousand and more orphans whom I rescued the girls exceeded the boys in number.

"While the social ruin wrought by the terrible famine of 1900 has been deep and wide beyond all description, the marvellous display of sympathy on the part of the more civilized nations remains an abiding testimony to the growing solidarity of mankind. It very deeply impressed those of the people of India who heard of it and the help so freely and so generously given made all feel that the Government of India, if in ordinary circumstances but a cold embodiment of strict justice, is in a time of real and deep need a veritable mother and tender-hearted and self-sacrificing."

IV.—KISHENGARH.

Owing to the succession of deficient rainfalls during the previous four or five years, there has been a great scarcity of supply of both fodder and food-grains.

The rains set in on the 21st of June and gave four showers in that month and two showers in the beginning of July, which practically brought the monsoon to a close, there having been only two slight showers hardly sufficient to wet the ground in August and a similarly ineffective one in September. The rainfall was 4·55 inches which is the lowest on record during these 30 or 40 years. There were no winter rains.

The kharif was sown on a very extensive scale, although there were hardly any early cotton sowings. The kharif crops came up very well, but got stunted in growth, and went on struggling for life till the middle of September, when they all perished for want of moisture.

The practically complete failure of the monsoon and the absence of any showers in September and October precluded all dry rabi sowings. There was no accumulation of water in tanks, supply of water in wells had been gradually diminishing during the previous years owing to the succession of weak monsoons. This was found altogether failure.

The cultivators had sent away most of their cattle for pasturage and kept at home only such of the plough cattle as were needed for the little rabi they thought their failing wells would be able to irrigate.

In August 1899, when it was seen that distress on an unprecedentedly large scale was inevitable, a Dharmada Committee was started at the capital with branches in the principal towns for raising subscriptions and spending them on the relief of the *parda-nashin* and respectable paupers, and, if possible, of other helpless and destitute persons incapable of earning their livelihood. The subscriptions were found to be very readily forthcoming from all quarters and were sufficient for all the above requirements. Lists of all persons deserving of help were accordingly drawn up from village to village, and in all towns including Jaghirs and all alienated estates.

Payments were made monthly in cash and calculated to procure to the recipients eight chhataks of the cheapest grain daily.

The Darbar, Mr. Irwin (now C.I.E.), the late Resident at Jaipur, the officials, bankers, traders and others all subscribed to the fund very cheerfully and liberally.

In May last, the Dharmada Committee was amalgamated with the local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

The funds of the Committee were in the custody of the State Bank. Each branch of the Committee's work, varied and wide spread as it was, was supervised by one or more of its members from time to time selected for the purpose by the Committee at its general meetings.

All gifts and advances (*e. g.*, of materials of trade) were, except in special cases, made not in cash, but in kind, in the shape of cattle, fodder, food stuffs, agricultural and other implements, clothing, cotton for spinning, yarn for weaving and other materials for trade. The chance of any of the gifts

or advances going astray was thus considerably reduced. The revenue and judicial officers in their various circles were invariably associated with the members of the Committee in the discharge of the multifarious duties undertaken by the Committee.

The distribution of gifts on behalf of the Committee was further directed to be made in the presence of members of Mofussil local Jaghirdars and other respectable persons of localities concerned whose signatures were taken in attestation of payments. Checking and examining officers appointed by the Committee went on their rounds and checked and verified all the operations of the Committee from place to place.

The Committee purchases were also similarly supervised by some member or other and were entrusted to persons whom I have very carefully selected in consultation with the Committee.

The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary personally supervised all the financial affairs, transactions at the head office, and the checking and purchasing affairs were under their control.

The President himself kept an eye on the transactions at the head office (which is situated in his own premises), and all the operations at the capital; while the operations in the Mofussil and the purchases in the North-Western Provinces were daily reported to him.

The meetings of the Committee were generally held once a week or even oftener.

Whenever the President went out on tour he supervised all the transactions of the Committee wherever he went.

Everybody, whether official and non-official, who has been associated in the carrying out of relief operations of the Committee has, it is gratifying to note, done his work to the best of his ability.

V.—ABU.

Owing to the failure of the monsoon in Rajputana during 1899, and the consequent distress prevailing, many destitute wanderers began to find their way up to Abu about the beginning of December of that year in the hope of obtaining employment or relief. Distress was also prevalent among the villagers of the Abu plateau, but it did not reach an acute stage until some months later.

As the Abu Bazar become rapidly thronged with mendicants, many of whom belonged to the professional beggar class, the local authorities deemed it advisable to start a poor-house in order to systematise the different forms of indiscriminate charity indulged in by the various native communities of the station.

To provide the necessary funds Lieutenant A. B. Minchin, Magistrate of Abu, who undertook the working of the scheme, issued an appeal for assistance to the Abu public, which met with a most generous response.

A poor-house was accordingly opened on the 11th December 1899, in a disused Jail building just outside the station, that was fortunately available for the purpose.

Owing to the proximity of the Sanitarium for British Troops and of the Civil Station and Bazar, the Medical authorities were averse from allowing a large number of people to be collected in the poor-house for any length of time. It was nevertheless necessary to find shelter for the hordes of homeless wanderers who used at this time to find their way up the hill from the surrounding States. The plan was therefore adopted of drafting off the inmates to the various relief works and poor-houses of the States to which they belonged, as soon as the Medical authorities considered them strong enough to be sent away.

After the institution had been a few weeks in existence it became evident that local contributions were inadequate to provide for the large numbers, who sought its shelter, and an appeal was accordingly preferred to the Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, which kindly placed a sum of R1,500 at the Magistrate's disposal to supplement local resources.

In the beginning of April a Local Committee was formed under the orders of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General.

From the date of the formation of this Committee all local charities were united and merged into the operations of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Prior to this a sum of R2,966-7-3 had already been raised locally by private subscription, whilst the total receipts and expenditure on the 7th April, the date of the first meeting of the Local Committee, amounted to R4,484-7-3 and R2,468-14-6 respectively. The subscriptions collected from December 1899 up to the conclusion of operations have realised a sum of R5,180-15-3, whilst at different times grants to the extent of R3,000 have been received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The aggregate total of receipts thus amounts to R8,283-2-9, including a sum of R102-3-6 obtained from the sale of chicks, baskets, etc., made in the poor-house.

The total expenditure incurred amounts to R7,947-7-2, leaving a closing balance of R335-11-7, which has been refunded to the Provincial Committee.

The aggregate number of persons relieved in the poor-house from the 11th December 1899 to the 25th October 1900, during which period relief was thus afforded, amounts to 46,158, the highest monthly total being 9,511 in March, when on one day the number of inmates rose to 624. The average number of persons relieved daily was 145.

Great difficulties had to be contended with owing to the prevalence of small-pox and measles in the station, whilst an outbreak of cholera, which occurred in May 1900, occasioned an irreparable loss in the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Adams, I.M.S., Administrative Medical Officer for Rajputana, in whom the Committee had invariably found an able adviser and friend.

In view of the sickness prevailing the control of the poor-house was vested in a Havildar assisted by two sepoys of the Erinpura Irregular Force, whose chief duty it was to see that the building was kept scrupulously clean and tidy. By this means the poor-house was kept almost entirely free from epidemic disease, the mortality among the inmates being mostly due to the effects of dysentery and famine diarrhœa. The number of deaths, however, were small; averaging only 14·5 per month, in spite of the fact that many of the inmates were in an almost dying condition when admitted.

In addition to the poor-house, assistance was also afforded to the inhabitants of the villages in the vicinity of the station by the distribution of grain and money.

Until the end of May local distress was not acute and only 226 doles of grain had to be distributed. In June, however, when the rains failed to break, the resources of the people became exhausted and during June, July, and August it became necessary to distribute as many as 31,005 grain doles among the starving inhabitants of the hill, who included many immigrants form below.

When the monsoon had set in, however, and work became obtainable, all wanderers were dismissed to their homes with valedictory doles of clothes, grains and money.

In October and November on the commencement of the cold weather a sum of nearly R800 was expended on the purchase of clothing, which was distributed to 622 people, many of whom were almost destitute of covering.

This practically closed the operations of the Committee, as in December it was only found necessary to make certain small grants of money to enable a few belated wanderers to return to their homes.

In conclusion it only remains to record the services of those who lent their aid in the conduct of operations under the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Prominent among these was Munshi Mohamed Iqbal Hussain, Bikaner Vakil in attendance on the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General. Although nearly 70 years of age, this gentleman for more than nine months practically lived in the poor-house, the supervision of which he took under his own immediate control; and under his careful and efficient management it became a model of what such an institution should be. The hardships he endured must have seriously undermined his constitution, as on leaving Abu he fell a victim to the deadly malarial fever that was raging everywhere at the time, and died after but a short illness at Delhi in December 1900. His death is a matter of unfailing regret to those who had witnessed his loyalty and devotion to the duty he had set himself to perform.

VI.—DEOLI.

The head-quarters of this Agency is situated at a distance varying from 30 to 36 miles from the capitals of the Tonk and Bundi States and the Shahpura Chiefship. For this reason it was necessary to have Branch Committees in each State and Chiefship and their reports have only recently been received, *viz.*, that of Shahpura on the 24th ultimo, that of Bundi (incomplete) on the 27th idem and that of Tonk on the 4th instant.

There are two States and one Chiefship under this Agency and their area and population is given below :—

	Area. Square miles.	Population. According to 1891 Census.	According to Provincial Totals 1901 Census.
Bundi	2,220	2,95,675	1,71,227
Tonk	2,552	3,80,069	2,73,035
Shahpura . . .	405	63,646	42,617

The whole of the Bundi State and the Shahpura Chiefship was affected by famine, but one district of the Tonk State escaped, and the affected area in Tonk may be put down at 1,983 square miles and the population thereof (according to the census of 1891) was 2,86,213. The cause of distress was a grave deficiency in the rainfall during 1899. There was a certain amount of rain, and it might have sufficed had it been evenly distributed, but it fell in one burst at the beginning of the monsoon, and from the 10th July 1899 to about the 10th July 1900 there was practically no rain. As a consequence the outturn of the kharif crop was about 2 annas in the rupee and the rabi crop was no better. The cultivators were weak and ill, they had lost almost all their bullocks, and there was but little water in the wells and tanks and no grass.

Under instructions from the Agent to the Governor General a Local Committee for the collection and distribution of funds for local relief purposes was formed at the end of March 1900.

In addition to the above Local Committee, Branch Committees were formed in each State and Chiefship. The Political Agent and the Prime Minister (or Kamdar) were respectively President and Vice-President, and the number of members varied from 4 to 6.

The amount allotted to the Deoli Local Committee from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was ₹4,01,000 and out of this the Branch Committees were given the following sums :—

	£
Bundi	1,85,000
Tonk	1,60,000
Shahpura	56,000

Local subscriptions in Bundi amounted to ₹13,000 in the State coin (including ₹1,000 from the Kamdar, Bahra Meghban) and in Shahpura to about ₹600. In Tonk the late Prime Minister and other Sahibzadas distributed food gratis to people near their residences and a good deal of money was subscribed, but it was spent through State Agency. For the relief of distress in the Deoli Agency bazaar and surroundings it was necessary to make special arrangements, and these were carried out by private charity without any help from the States or from Government. Captain Younghusband started a fund to which the Vakils and the Agency establishment subscribed and it was soon augmented by liberal subscriptions from England collected privately. Altogether ₹5,555 were collected, a poor-house and orphanage were started, and the numbers receiving food and medical assistance in the former varied from 49 in January to 368 in June ; 47 orphans were under Mrs. Younghusband's special care throughout the famine. In the worst part of the famine as many as six and seven hundred people a day received a dole of food.

There were 8 poor-houses, 1 cholera camp and 1 orphanage in the Bundi State, and they were maintained partly at the expense of the State and partly from the Charitable Relief Fund money. One thousand and four hundred bullocks were purchased in Central India with Fund money, railed to Lambia and thence marched to Bundi where all but 38 arrived and were distributed among the cultivators. The difficulty incurred in this operation can hardly be exaggerated : cholera was raging at the place of purchase, the animals could

not be marched as there was no water on the road, and but little grass, so after much delay (during which the animals had to be kept alive) the railway authorities were able to supply a sufficient number of wagons. Arrived at Lambia with sufficient grass to last out as far as Bundi, it was necessary to hire 100 carts to carry that grass, as there was little or none obtainable *en route*, but only 28 carts could be found. However the difficulties were overcome, the amount to be given to the bullocks was reduced to 5 seers a day, the carts were loaded up and grass was purchased on the road at from 14 to 16 seers for the rupee. In addition to the above expenditure from the Fund, gifts of money and seed grain were given to the cultivators directly the rain fell in July 1900. To the inmates of the poor-houses (when they were strong enough to leave) were given 8 annas, a day's food, a hoe and some clothes which had been manufactured locally during the previous months to give employment to weavers and tailors. At the orphanage the inmates were provided with shelter, food, clothes and blankets, all at the cost of the fund and such articles as Mellin's food, condensed milk, arrowroot and medical comforts were also supplied. On the relief works and in the poor-houses the food supplied by the Darbar was supplemented by chapattis supplied at the expense of the Fund. In September and October last a severe type of malarial fever set in and large quantities of quinine pills were supplied with fund money. In the Tonk State the sum allotted from the Charitable Relief Fund was spent on the same objects as in Bundi and this remark applies also to the Shahpura Chiefship.

The expenditure of the fund money and the keeping of accounts was under the supervision of the Branch Committees who held meetings from time to time. A general supervision was exercised by the Political Agent and his assistants in Tonk and Bundi, but the latter left after distress had subsided.

VII.—BUNDI.

Bundi is a compact little Rajput State, with an area of 2,220 square miles and a population numbering 295,675, situated on the southern border of Rajputana, on the edge of the Central Indian plateau. The prevailing castes are Rajput, Mina, Brahman, Bania and Musalman, and the prevailing occupations are agricultural, pastoral, and, in the towns, weaving. Of the total population only 28,637, or 9·7 per cent. live in towns. The average rainfall is 21·7 inches, and as the soil is good the harvests are usually plentiful, and more grain than the needs of the inhabitants demand is grown, so that there is ample left for export. There is no need for irrigation except, of course, from wells in ordinary years and no canals have yet been constructed. But in the hilly parts of the State large artificial lakes and tanks have been formed, the more noticeable being situated near Hindoli, Dugari and Naenwa, and from these water-reservoirs a considerable amount of land is irrigated for the rabi crop. Crops are also grown on the land left dry in these reservoirs by the withdrawal of the water. Except in years of deficient rainfall the country is therefore well able to support its present population, and if more such tanks as those described above could be made it might well support an even larger population than its present one. The communications are indifferent, and all the roads, except that leading through Bundi from Nasirabad to Kotah, are unmade country tracks. The town of Bundi is 67 miles from the railway at Bara in Kotah, and 90 miles from the railway at Nasirabad.

Famine in this State is very exceptional. Since 1868 no such calamity has befallen Bundi. The Famine of 1868 is the only one of which any authentic records exist. In that year plentiful rain fell in July, but in August only one inch fell, and, after that, the rains ceased. The crops consequently never came to maturity, and only one-third of an average crop was realised. The land was too dry for full rabi sowings, and the rabi harvest was only half the usual amount. By December grain was selling at rates between 7 and 8 seers for a rupee. Deaths from starvation are described as having been lamentably numerous. In May cholera appeared, and this, added to the heat, carried off multitudes of victims, including the Political Agent. The monsoon did not break till July the 10th, instead of the usual date about June 20th, and so many people and cattle had died, and the remaining cultivators were so weak that only two-thirds of the usual amount of land was sown, and much of that had to be prepared by hand,

a mode of tillage which entailed weary toil and labour. Distress still continued, and was at its height in September, when grain was selling at 5 seers per rupee. With the harvesting of the kharif crop in October—though the amount gathered was only half the outcome of an ordinary year—prices began to lower. But the country had now to undergo its severest trial. Low intermittent fever and in places scurvy prostrated the people who, weakened by a long course of bad and indifferent food, sank down and died. The mortality during October, November and December, owing to this epidemic was very great, upwards of half the deaths which occurred during the year being ascribed to it. The prevalence of sickness seriously retarded field operations already crippled by the loss of cattle; and the spring crop was in many parts not sown till late in the season. It was not till January that the State at last began to recover, but the cultivator, always more or less in debt, was irretrievably ruined. His cattle, his household, all were gone. And as with the individual so with the State: the revenue was sadly diminished, the expenditure correspondingly increased, and debt accumulated to such an extent as to seriously cripple the State for many years after.

A grave deficiency in the rainfall occurred again during 1899, and caused the present terrible famine and the ill-effects of this deficiency were aggravated by the fact that nearly the whole of what rain did fall, fell in one burst at the beginning of the season. The amount in itself, 13·3 inches, though small, might have partially sufficed had it been evenly distributed. The special evil lies in its having fallen in the short period between June 15th and July 10th. After the latter date only a few local showers fell and these were of no practical use. As week by week went by, we watched the crops and the sky, with an ever-increasing anxiety. The crops were withering slowly, but the sky was always overcast: and it seemed certain that the usual rain must fall, and crops revive. They lasted on with extraordinary vitality, but slowly they drooped and faded. By the end of August it was said that, if only the usual rain would fall in September, half the crop would be saved. In the middle of September it was thought that a couple of inches of rain before end of the month would still save about a third of the crops. But no rain fell. Only 13·3 inches had fallen, instead of the usual 21·7 inches, and of that none fell after July 10th; so all crops except those on irrigated land, about 12 per cent. of the whole, were lost: and the withered jawar and maize stalks were cut down for forage for the cattle.

Nor did this deficiency of rainfall affect the kharif crop only. The ground in October was dry and hard in consequence of the failure of the rains, and quite unfit for the usual rabi sowings. So only land round wells, or near tanks, could be cultivated: the usual amount of even that land was not available, for water in the wells was deficient: the tanks had not all been filled by the rain, and a great deal of the water that had been stored was used for irrigating kharif crops.

Moreover, the two previous harvests—the kharif of 1898 and the *rabi* of 1899—had not been good. The rainfall had been below the average by 4·73 inches, the kharif crop of 1898 was poor, and the *rabi* crop only three-quarters the usual amount. Water in the wells and tanks was short even before the drought of 1899, and many hundreds of cattle had died previously from want of grass.

Instead, therefore, of Bundi being well-stocked with grain at the commencement of the present famine, cattle being plentiful, strong and well, and grass at least procurable in needful quantities, in every one of these respects there was a deficiency. Bundi, which in ordinary years exports large quantities of grain, had now to import it by the long 90 miles of road, fortunately now metalled, from the Railway Station at Nasirabad. The cattle commenced the struggle weak and thin. There were no reserves of grass, while the supply of 1899 was the most meagre ever known. The great famine of 1868, terrible as it had been, was preceded by good years: the rain then had fallen up to August, so grass was fairly plentiful, and the water in the wells and tanks not greatly deficient. It is because this year of famine was preceded by poor years: because the grass supply had failed as well as the crops: and because water was so scarce, that all who had known the past famine as well as this say that the present one is incomparably the worst of the two—the worst, as far is known, that has ever visited the State.

By the end of September, therefore, there was no longer room for doubt that famine, and famine in its severest form, must inevitably ensue. The price of grain rapidly rose. The people, already beginning to feel the pinch, attacked

grain carts, grain dealers' shops in outlying districts, and solitary travellers, while the fields round wells where the crops had ripened were practically placed in a state of siege. As a consequence all grain-sellers retired into the towns and head-quarters of tehsils. The Durbar promptly increased the Police by 119 Sowaars and 1,025 Foot. Traffic along the roads by night was forbidden. And in order to stay the rapid rise in the price of grain, its export was prohibited. Yet while the Durbar thus prohibited the export of grain from its territories it, at the same time, removed the existing tax on grain passing through.

For a while the people kept up better than I had anticipated they would do, and as it became known that measures of relief for them were in contemplation, the feeling of terror and panic which the sight of their withering corn fields, and of the stream of Marwaris fleeing to Central India from the famine had caused them, gave way to one of settled resignation. Like their hardy millet crops the people kept on for week after week, and month after month, without any visible means of sustenance. The smallest amount of nourishment seemed sufficient to keep them alive, and in a variety of ways they found means of obtaining the little nourishment required. They went into the jungles and dug grass, cut firewood, collected leaves of the *Ber* shrub for fodder, and sold all this to gain the wherewithal to live on; and they eked out their scanty supply of grain with berries. The withered jawar and maize crops were also sold. Hoarded money and ornaments were now brought out, and when nothing else was left, when the grass and berries in the jungles were all gathered or withered, clothes, cooking utensils, beds, furniture, and at last even the doors and the rafters of the house were sold.

Arrived at this stage, the people in any ordinary famine would have emigrated to some more favourable region where famine did not exist. But this year there was nowhere to flee to. On all sides for hundreds of miles want was staring the people in the face. Warnings came from Central India that there also was distress, and soon a return wave of poor Marwari emigrants, cast back from the land they had always looked to as a place of refuge in time of famine, showed the Bundi people unmistakably that there was no hope of relief beyond.

By October it had become absloutely imperative that relief should be afforded by the Durbar. But Bundi is an old-fashioned State; and never in its history had organised relief on a large scale. It was now face to face with the worst famine of which it had any cognisance. In British India the Government has always in the worst famines the *greater* part of its territory unaffected, and so from that portion can draw means for supporting the affected parts. But in Bundi the whole State was affected, and relief on the same scale of liberality as is afforded by Government, was considered by the Durbar to be quite beyond their means. Fortunately, however, there was a scheme at hand by which relief could be afforded to a number of people, while the money so spent would afterwards greatly benefit the State. This scheme was the construction of the Bundi section of the proposed Railway connecting Bara with Marwar Junction. This line had been surveyed only the year previous. It runs for 38·53 miles through the middle of the State, and through the town of Bundi itself. Work upon it would therefore be the very best form of relief to the people, and the most economical, because remunerative to the State.

When it was proposed by the Agent to the Governor General that the earthwork of this line should be taken in hand at an estimated cost of 1¾ lakhs, the Durbar at first feared that the expense would be more than they could bear. In a Native State in a time of famine, very large suspensions and remissions of revenue are made. The Bundi Durbar expected to realise only a third of their usual revenue this year, and less than the normal amount in the few years following. While at the same time extra expenditure on additional police and on the upkeep of all establishments during a year of famine was inevitable. They were, therefore, naturally unwilling to enter upon any further very large expenditure if it could be avoided, and at first did not anticipate spending a larger sum than R60,000 upon relief. As, however, they began to realise the intensity of the distress on the one hand, and on the other the benefits which a railway conferred upon a country they consented to incur the proposed expenditure and shortly became most anxious that the railway should be rapidly completed.

Work on it was commenced on November 8th, 1899. At the same time the Durbar employed numbers of people in cutting and digging grass, and a free distribution of grain was made daily in Bundi City in the customary way to the beggars who collected there. The Famine Relief operations were, therefore, now fairly started, and by the end of the month there were 4,135 employed upon works, and 250 receiving gratuitous relief. Numbers more ought to have come on, even as early as this, but the system of giving relief by providing work was as new to the people as to the Durbar, and consequently only professional labourers, and people living quite close to the line of railway came at first, and the ordinary cultivators especially those at any distance from the railway) preferred to stay on in their villages, selling everything they possessed, reducing, week by week, the amount of food they could allow themselves, then mixing the grain with leaves and berries from the jungle, then taking food every other day only, then once in three days, and so drifting on to starvation, but not coming to work for a living when work was provided. The looting greatly diminished, and the people became more resigned on seeing something was being done for them. But, unfortunately, they did not take advantage of this to a proper degree. They waited on in their villages till they were unfit to work: and, as I shall subsequently have to relate, either died, or came in to the great poor-houses in a moribund condition.

Seeing this was the case, I consulted the Durbar as to the advisability of opening relief works, such as tanks in the outlying districts. But the Durbar said it was beyond their means. They had given out Takavi advances for deepening wells or digging new ones, and I know that many wells were dug with this help. Nothing more than this could be attempted at present. The condition of the people was not, in the opinion of the Durbar, so serious as to call for relief on any larger scale than that already provided.

Through December, the outward appearance of the people was still fairly good, and I was astonished at their great staying power. But no rain at all fell during the month to help on the rabi crops which had been sown round the wells: these were growing up poor and thin, for the water in the wells was low, and was insufficient for the crops, without the help of the usual Christmas rains. And hardy though the people (on the whole) looked, the weaker ones were already being rapidly found out.

The Durbar now accepted the offer of a loan from the Government of India, and applied for the sum of ₹1,68,666 the equivalent of the amount usually paid as tribute and quit-rent for the Patan Istimrari Estate. Later in December they applied for a further loan, making the total amount up to four lakhs, and asked that not only the light earthwork on the railway, but the heavy earthwork also, and the ballast collection, construction of station buildings and culverts, and collection of materials for bridges should be undertaken.

The loan of ₹1,68,666 was granted by Government, and ₹75,000 of the further sum asked for, but no other work on the railway than earthwork and ballast collection was sanctioned.

In the meanwhile grain was flowing freely into the State by the metalled cartroad from Nasirabad, and at this time (though not later) transport was cheap and easily procurable, because the owners of bullocks were only too glad to let them out for the sake of getting them fed. Everyone now acknowledged the advantages of a railway, and distant though the railway still is from Bundi, it was yet the means of carrying grain over hundreds of miles to Nasirabad, and the carriage of it from there was a task of comparative ease.

Grain was at the end of December selling at the following prices:—

Wheat,	8 seers	10 chitaks	per rupee.
Jawar,	9 „	12 „	„
Barley,	9 „	12 „	„

In the villages it was selling at about a seer less per rupee than these prices.

The month of January was perhaps the worst of the whole famine. The weather suddenly became excessively cold. The people had come to the end of their resources, and the relief arrangements were as yet inadequate to cope with the rapidly-heightening distress. The people died in numbers: no attempt to bury them was made, and even round Bundi itself, corpses were constantly to be seen. Work on the railway was unpopular among the people, because they were often made by subordinate officials to work hard for very little, and many

of them had now let themselves run down so low that they were unable to work hard. Moreover, there was frequently uncertainty about their receiving even the small wages they were supposed to have earned. Poor-houses had been established in Bundi City, Naenwa and Hindoli; but they afforded the scantiest possible relief, and the condition of the people was deplorable.

Mr. G. E. Wakefield, who had been detailed for duty in this Agency, arrived in Bundi in the middle of January, and commenced a re-organisation of the State system of relief. The rate of wages was increased, and the system of payment was regularised. But when Major Dunlop Smith, the Famine Commissioner, visited the State at the end of January he recommended the Durbar to make still greater efforts and to open relief works in the outlying districts.

Early in February the Durbar, under Mr. Wakefield's guidance, opened ballast collection works, upon which weak people could be employed. In the meanwhile Lieutenant Haworth was touring through the western districts of the State to complete the knowledge of the condition of the State, which I had acquired by tours in the eastern part. The distress at this time was not so great in the districts, as round the immediate vicinity of the capital, to which the destitute were now beginning to flock in large numbers. I therefore directed Lieutenant Haworth to establish himself in Bundi itself, and as we had both become convinced that the poor-houses organised in the tehsils were of no practical use, I urged the Durbar to establish a large and properly-organised Central poor-house at Bundi under Lieutenant Haworth's control.

In March the people obtained a small amount of relief by employment in the rabi harvest; and those who had wells in their fields and had been able to grow a scanty crop, obtained now the means of supporting themselves for a short time longer. But the Durbar officials were not carrying out the wishes of the Maharao Raja as His Highness had expressed them to Major Dunlop Smith and me in January. The numbers on relief were keeping almost stationary, though the distress was increasing. The Agent to the Governor General therefore directed that works and poor-houses on a larger scale should be opened. I twice visited Bundi during the month to confer with His Highness, who now issued the most strict and urgent orders to his officials to pay greater regard to measures of famine relief. His Highness, at the same time, ordered that the general supervision of the measurement of tasks and payment of wages should be placed in the hands of Mr. Hilton, the Supervisor of the Railway, and that Lieutenant Haworth's advice upon all matters conected with Famine Relief should be promptly acted on by the State officials. His Highness himself took the direction of Famine Relief into his own hands, and conferred daily with his Council. Lieutenant Haworth threw his whole soul into the heavy work on hand. Large properly-organised poor-houses rapidly sprung up, and "work-houses" were established, where weaklings who could do a small amount of work were fed and taken off to collect and break ballast.

From this time forward there was a rapid rise in the numbers on relief, and a steady improvement in administering it. The numbers relieved at the end of each month were, in:—

January	5,148
February	6,153
March	8,878
April	15,377
May	18,621
June	22,087

and at the end of the first week in July, just before the rains broke, the numbers were 23,308.

In April the distress began sensibly to deepen, but arrangements for dealing with it were now more complete. The people were most unwilling to work on the railway earthwork, but they came in hundreds to the poor-houses and work-houses, till one after another was crowded out and new ones had to be established. Everyone who applied for relief at the poor-houses was admitted, and those who could do a little work were drafted on to ballast collection; and I had hoped that those who were working at the ballast collection who were strong enough could be drafted on to the earthwork. Many attempts to draft these able-bodied people away were made, but they invariably refused to work on the earthwork, and, after a few days' wandering about without food, would come back again to

the ballast collection or poor-houses. The State also opened relief works in all the tehsils during this month, and employed about 2,000 persons in this way in mending old tanks and bridges.

In May the distress still further deepened, and to add to it cholera appeared. Water was now very scarce even in Bundi City: and 1,300 water-carriers were employed for the supply of the poor-houses and ballast work alone. Small quantities only remained in but a few wells: this was filthily dirty, and filled with cholera germs. The Bundi State employs only one Hospital Assistant, and it was impossible to undertake the sanitation of the entire town and the poor-houses as well; so all the efforts were concentrated upon keeping the disease out of the poor-houses. In this Lieutenant Haworth, for whom this period was a most trying and dangerous one, succeeded admirably. Forewarned by the appearance of cholera in surrounding States, he had removed one great poor-house of over 2,000 persons to a roomy healthy garden about four miles from the city: and he had also selected a site for a cholera hospital. So, when the outbreak occurred, the wells from which the poor-house inmates received this water were treated with permanganate of potassium; a strong staff for promptly removing cholera patients to the hospital was organised, disinfectants were freely applied, and before the end of the month the poor-houses were clear of the disease, though it still hung about the city.

At this time numbers of deaths also occurred from what the native called "Lun." It often closely resembled cholera in its symtoms, and was due to the heat and the "Lun" or hot west wind, which at this season was blowing with great violence. The poor emaciated creatures were prostrated by the terrible heat, and in their pitiable condition it was scarcely possible to state precisely what they were suffering from. I visited Bundi in the midst of the epidemic with Captain Lumsden, the Agency Surgeon, and even he found difficulty in deciding in many cases whether the patient was suffering from true cholera or merely from the effects of the heat.

The poor-houses indeed now presented the most moving picture of human misery it is possible to conceive. All the dregs of this sorely-stricken State, now in the very depth of its affliction, were concentrated here. For half a year past they might have come and worked upon the railway, and earned enough to keep them strong and well. Ever since February they might have come into the poor-houses and received, without working for it, enough to live on; but their aversion to leaving their villages is so great, and the whole tendency of their character is so markedly in favour of patient resignation, rather than of active efforts to ward off a calamity, that they waited on and on in their homes, month after month, till now at their last extremity they dragged themselves into the poor-houses—mere living skeletons, apparently past all hope of recovery. Once in the poor-house all help possible was given them, and at this climax of the famine the magnificent gifts which were received from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, were especially appreciated, and enabled us to provide extra diet and medicines. But among the long rows of starving human beings it seemed impossible to expect that many could survive, and efforts to save them appeared utterly futile.

Many indeed did die, and the death rate in the poor-houses was as much as 90 to 100 a day. But the majority were saved. Week by week the accommodation, the diet and the organisation were improved, under Lieutenant Haworth's constant supervision. At the beginning of June, Mr. H. V. O'Brien, a retired Assistant Surgeon, whose services had been applied for, arrived in Bundi to take up the control of the medical arrangements in the poor houses. Major MacWatt, I.M.S., who had succeeded Captain Lumsden as Agency Surgeon, made a thorough inspection of the Hospital arrangements during the month, and proffered many valuable suggestions, especially in regard to the sanitation. When I next visited Bundi in July, there was such an improvement in the general look and condition of the people as I should not have before thought possible.

At the same time preparations were made in anticipation of the break of the rains, which usually takes place about the 20th of June in Bundi. With the money at our disposal from the Charitable Relief Fund it was possible to buy 1,400 bullocks for distribution among the cultivators. These were purchased and despatched by Lieutenant S. H. Jacob from Central India, though with no

small difficulty, for cholera was raging with terrible severity at Maksi, where Lieutenant Jacob made the purchases: there was no water on the road, so they could not be marched to their destination: for some time wagons could not be obtained, so they could not be railed: and by the end of June grass was almost unprocurable, so it was impossible to keep them where they were. After much correspondence, however, Lieutenant Jacob secured a sufficient number of wagons and despatched them with all the grass he could obtain to Lambia, the nearest point on the railway to Bundi. But even Lambia is 90 miles distant, and carts to carry the grass which was required to feed the bullocks till the new grass sprang up were not to be got. 100 carts were required, while only 28 could be found. By purchasing grass locally at a rate of from 14 to 16 seers for a rupee, and by reducing the amount given to the bullocks to 5 seers a day, they were, however, marched to Bundi with the loss of only 38; and the sight of these herds of strong cattle marching through the country served greatly to raise the spirits of the people.

But the struggle was not yet over. June 20th passed, and still the fierce hot winds continued to blow, and no signs of rain appeared. The country for months past had been parched like a cinder. Every blade of grass had long since been burned up. Many even of the trees had died, and those that lived had but a few loose lifeless leaves. The country was like a desert, and the spirit of desolation hung brooding over everything. All life seemed slowly drying up. And yet the rains which, in this year of all others, should have arrived with punctuality, still kept off. Day after day went by till June was over and no rain fell. The suspense and tension was almost too much to bear. The poor people sank in despair. Cattle, which by every kind of sacrifice and device they had kept alive through all these trying months, succumbed at the last. Men began to fear that the course of nature had altered and the monsoon drifted elsewhere than to India. The first week in July passed, and the sky was as cloudless as before. But at last on July 10th, after exactly a year without rain of any use for cultivators, the monsoon burst, and hope once more revived.

Directly the rain fell, Lieutenant Haworth commenced the work of distributing the bullocks to cultivators, and of giving them money for the purchase of seed-grain. Lists had been previously prepared by the district authorities of those cultivators who stood most in need of help, and of all cultivators on the relief works. To every one of these a present of a bullock or of a few rupees was given. Crowds of eager men and women collected in front of Lieutenant Haworth's residence, where the Local Branch of the Charitable Fund Committee were assembled, and as each man's name was read out, and his identity, when possible, certified to by the Tehsildar or members of the Committee, he was made to sign a receipt for a bullock, given a certificate that it was a free gift upon which no recovery would ever be made, and was then hurried off to catch the first bullock he could out of the herd. Others again were given a small present of cash. But the work of disposing of so many applicants was such that Messrs. Hilton and Sutton of the Railway Survey, and Mr. O'Brien, the Assistant Surgeon were called in to assist, and readily gave their help. The result was that in a few days after the rain had fallen hundreds of cultivators, who before were utterly broken down, were returning to their homes leading strong useful plough-bullocks, and thousands more had with them the means of sowing their fields. Up till now I had seen few signs of gratitude on the part of the people. Those who were weak had been too exhausted to show feelings of any kind, and those who were strong were thinking more of how to obtain the maximum of food with the minimum of exertion on their part. But when I visited Bundi towards the close of the distribution, there was no mistaking the signs of gratitude in the people. The gift of bullocks at that particular moment was a gift beyond price. A bullock is everything to a cultivator, and bullocks in Bundi were then absolutely unobtainable. Nor could they be procured anywhere near. It was only at great risk and trouble, and by long previous arrangement altogether beyond the power of the individual cultivator, or even of the State, that they could have been obtained. But here they were now in hundreds just at the very moment when they were wanted. I had previously been doubtful of the wisdom of spending so much money upon the purchase of bullocks when so many human lives were still at stake, and I had only pressed on the measure because I knew of the importance which Major

Dunlop Smith from the very first had attached to it. But it is so clear now that the sum of nearly R60,000, which was spent upon the purchase of those 1,400 bullocks, could not have been better spent, and the gift has made an impression upon the people which will not be forgotten during the present generation.

When the cultivators had been disposed of, other destitute persons also received gifts from the Charitable Fund grant. All inmates of the poor-houses who had thoroughly recovered and wished to return to their homes, were given eight annas, a day's food, a hoe and new clothes, all of which had been manufactured locally during the last two months to give employment to weavers and tailors. Thus set up, they were enabled to go off and earn a living by weeding in the fields or collecting grass, and the gratitude of the people, of the women especially, as they found themselves safe through the famine at last, and set up again in life in a small way, was truly touching to witness. As the bearers of the bundles of clothing approached the rows of poor ragged women, they instinctively broke out singing, and in one or two cases even dancing. And when they had arrayed themselves in their new clothes, and had received their money and food, they would come up to the Committee and, first pointing to heaven, then bowing with their heads to the ground, sometimes even throwing themselves at full length, would express their thankfulness to those who had saved their lives. Even one who had gone through so many hardships, and worked so zealously among them as Lieutenant Haworth had, must have felt rewarded for his labours by such a sight. The Durbar could see that the expenditure of so much money from its impoverished coffers had produced a result really worth attaining, and if any of the generous subscribers to the Charitable Relief Fund could have seen the gratitude of the people, they would have been assured of the inestimable good their gifts were doing.

Throughout the month of August good rain fell, and at the time of writing there is even fear that too much may fall and crops be ruined, not as last year by a scarcity of rain, but by an excess of it. The work of drafting off from the works and poor-houses those who had regained their strength and were able to gain a living, was continued steadily, and at the close of August there were on the relief works only 777 and in the poor-houses (including the orphanage) only 2,004.

From the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund a grant of R1,71,000 was made to the State. This money has not yet all been expended, and the accounts are not yet made up. But the amount will be spent under the various heads in the following proportions:—

	R
(1) Object I	44,600
(2) Object II	3,000
(3) Object III	2,000
(4) Object IV	1,20,000
(5) Miscellaneous—	
(*a*) Office Expenditure (*b*) Other Expenditure	4,400
TOTAL	1,71,000

I think it very desirable that in any future scarcity years emigrations should be encouraged in every way and intelligently directed, for I regard emigration as the most efficient means of avoiding the distress caused by famine which people in a State like Bundi can resort to. The prevalence of famine in Central India as well as in Rajputana is an extremely rare occurrence, and as far as I can learn, has never happened before the present year. In most cases, when there is famine in Bundi, Central India or Malwa will be free of it, and the people will be wise to take their flocks and herds off there instead of staying at home and expecting relief, which the State cannot afford to give in sufficiently great a degree. Emigration is the natural antidote of famine in these States, and while there is so much unoccupied land in Central India and such good grazing there, I think it is the best. There is certainly the risk that the State may thereby be depopulated, but as long as the people go off to live and not die it is better that they should emigrate than stay to die in their own State, and in practice I think it will be found that most emigrants will return at the close of the

famine. The cattle at any rate on the approach of a fodder famine should be driven off to the pasture lands of Central India. This was interdicted in the present famine by the Central India authorities, on account of the widely spread scarcity; but numbers from Marwar and Ajmer had already gone there before the warning notice had been issued, and these are now returning through Bundi in hundreds. The Bundi cattle have mostly died.

I think, in any future famine at the first unmistakable sign that famine is impending, some intelligent person should be deputed to proceed to Central India to ascertain where good grazing is to be had. The selected locality might then be notified throughout the State, and at stations along the main routes which emigrants follow; and it would be well if the cattle could be driven down there in August and September before the grass on the way is dried up.

The Durbar estimate that about 50 per cent. of the cattle have died. No measures were taken to preserve them. When a considerable grant of money was received from the Charitable Fund, it was proposed to take over cattle from the people, feed them at the expense of the fund, and return them to their owners when the rains broke. But the people refused to hand over their bullocks, even though the market value of them was offered to the owners as a guarantee. They had no faith that they would ever see their animals again, and the scheme had to be abandoned. 1,400 bullocks were then bought in Central India and presented to selected cultivators at the break of the rains.

Those cultivators who have any money are buying cattle at fairs in the Central India States.

There is very little means of comparing the powers of resistance of the people in the present and in past famines. On the whole, they seem much better fitted to endure—than to resist—a famine. They can keep body and soul together on incredibly scanty means, and many no doubt have survived through their capacity to endure privations for long periods. But they have shown little ability to resist famine. Few of them have exerted themselves to find work, and very little foresight has been displayed. Owing to the approach of the railway, grain was never so dear as in the last famine, and to this extent the people were placed in a better position, and the relief measures and grants from the Charitable Fund certainly put some heart into them. The people were therefore helped to resist the famine, but I do not think they showed any greater disposition to help themselves than in previous times of scarcity.

In the opinion of the people the relief measures undoubtedly mitigated the distress. As I have remarked earlier in the report, the mere fact of knowing that something was being done for them, and that they were not to be left uncared for to their fate served to encourage them. But they much disliked relief measures which involved labour on their own part, and which entailed leaving their villages. The railway earthwork was unpopular on account of the digging. Breaking ballast was more popular, because they could sit still and crack stones all day long. But the most popular relief measure was the poor-house, where they could lie down and do nothing and be given enough to keep them alive—which was all they wished for. The ordinary cultivator did not care to resort to relief till he was so reduced as to be fit only for the poor-house, and even when he had recovered his lost condition he profoundly resented being asked to work.

The political effect of the relief measures has been to inspire in the poorer classes the assurance that help will be given them in times of severe distress, and their gratitude for the relief afforded is certain. I am doubtful whether the official classes like the pressure which has been put on them to bestir themselves for the relief of the people. Relief measures cause them much extra work: and they are not very sure in their own minds whether the people, who, it must be confessed, have many exceedingly annoying traits in their character, deserve to be helped, or whether there is much to be gained by preserving life in the dregs of the population at immense cost and labour. On the other hand, the prosperous look of nearly every official who has been connected with famine relief indicates that they find means of compensating themselves for any extra labour they are called upon to perform.

The future prospects of the State cannot be good till several good years have followed this terrible famine year. The cultivators of Bundi have always

been poor—partly because they are themselves lazy and apathetic, partly because the system of administration is severe and discouraging. Now probably a quarter of them have either died or disappeared from their homes. All are heavily involved in debt and have lost half their cattle and sold most of their goods, and the State is in debt too to the extent of six lakhs. On the other hand the soil of Bundi is good, and the rainfall very seldom is deficient. If, then, the next few years are good and the railway, which has been commenced, is completed, so that Bundi can sell her surplus produce in good markets, there is a chance of Bundi gradually recovering herself.

VIII.—TONK.

The last great famine in the State was in 1868, and this is the only one of which there is any reliable account. In that year plentiful rain fell in July, and over an inch in August, but none fell in September, and the kharif crop was irretrievably ruined. Nor could the rabi crop be sown except on irrigated land. Altogether only about a quarter of an ordinary year's harvest was realised. By the 10th of October wheat was selling in Tonk at 8 seers and other grain at 10 seers for a rupee, and the streets became crowded with beggars whose gaunt, lean forms told but too plainly that actual famine had commenced. By the first week in December prices were $7\frac{1}{4}$ seers of wheat and 8 seers of other grain for a rupee; but after this the influx of imported grain caused them to fall. In April the deaths from starvation were described as "lamentably numerous; miserable skeletons found there way into Tonk in the last stage of emaciation and weakness, and many died." Grass was selling at about the same price as grain, and about 30 per cent. of the cattle died. Altogether the loss in the affected area, which contained a population of 1,31,000 souls, was calculated at 17 lakhs of rupees. Water in many parts was not to be had, and its absence added to the sufferings of the cattle. Towards the end of May cholera broke out and carried off multitudes of victims. The monsoon broke on July 10th, but only three-quarters of the usual area was sown for the kharif crop. Owing to the mortality among the cattle much of the land had to be tilled by hand. Distress still continued, and was at its height in September, when grain was selling at 5 seers per rupee. With the harvesting of the kharif crop in October, though the amount gathered was only half the outcome of an ordinary year, prices began to lower. But the country had now to undergo its severest trial in the spread of an epidemic of intermittent fever. The mortality during October, November and December owing to this epidemic was very great, upwards of half the deaths which occurred during the year being ascribed to it. The prevalence of sickness seriously retarded field operations, already crippled by the loss of cattle, and the spring crop was in many parts not sown till late in the season.

As early as August last conferences between the State Officials and myself were held to determine the course of action during the famine which was clearly impending; the existing programme was carefully examined, and special reports were called for from all parganas. From these it appeared that in the Central India parganas there was no immediate prospect of distress, but that in Nimbahera the famine would certainly be very severe. So in September the Prime Minister Sahibzada Sir Obeidulla Khan, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., and the Public Works Superintendent, Babu Damodar Chintaman, who was now appointed Famine Central Officer, proceeded to inspect the pargana; and while preparations for relief measures on a large scale were being made a few hundreds of the most needy were employed in repairing roads and enlarging a tank near the city. In October I also visited Nimbahera. By this time the distress was becoming very apparent, and the Durbar gave final orders for the commencement of work in constructing a large tank near the village of Uncha, and also for the distribution of considerable sums as takavi advances in response to the urgent appeals of the people to be provided with the means of deepening their wells, in order to obtain more water for the irrigation of the rabi crops.

Urdu translations of the Famine Code for Native States were now issued by the Prime Minister, but as he informed me that no one acted on it, I extracted from it short simple rules for the guidance of each separate class of officials, so that each official would have to read and understand a single page only instead

of having to find out his duties from a considerable volume. But as it has turned out in practice, even this small amount of system is inapplicable, and the smaller officials proved to be totally unfitted to carry out the provisions of the Famine Code.

In the beginning of November, Major Dunlop Smith, the Famine Commissioner, and I visited Tonk, and conferred with His Highness the Nawab and Sir Obeidulla Khan as to measures of relief to be taken. Both His Highness and the Prime Minister were most anxious to receive and be guided by the advice which Major Dunlop Smith's great famine experience enabled him to give. The relief work round Tonk, whose construction had been commenced during the previous months, and the poor-houses which had been established in the city were inspected, and the various improvements recommended were readily adopted. The poor-houses were removed from the centre of the city to healthy sites outside it, the rates of wage were increased and the method of payment improved.

Early in November, sanction was received from Government for a loan of two lakhs of rupees at four per cent. interest, and subsequently four more lakhs of rupees were received on loan from Government.

The relief measures were now in full swing, and by the end of the month five large tanks were under construction, employing 4,470 persons, while 2,455 were receiving gratuitous relief in the poor-houses.

In December the Durbar were lent the services of Mr. G. E. Wakefield, an Engineer who had great experience in matters of famine relief during the famine of 1897 in the Hissar District. He proceeded to Nimbahera and Pirawa to assist the State officials in organising the system of relief in those parganas, while Lieutenant Haworth, I.S.C., who had been appointed to the Agency as a Famine Assistant, proceeded to Tonk to tour round the districts, report upon the extent of distress, and help the State officials in organising the poor-houses. In the same month Mr. Milne, Executive Engineer, commenced the survey of the proposed railway running along the valley of the Banas River, the construction of the earthwork of which it was intended to undertake as a relief measure.

Acting on Mr. Wakefield's advice the Durbar augmented the supervising staff on the relief works, and engaged sub-overseers of experience from the Punjab. Various irregularities were rectified, and the conduct of the works put on a business-like footing. Poor-houses were also opened on them. In Pirawa the distress was less than in Nimbahera, but it was increasing, and on Mr. Wakefield's advice work on two tanks was commenced in that pargana also.

In the Tonk and Aligarh parganas Lieutenant Haworth reported that though numerous relief works were opened, so that no village was more than six miles distant from relief work, yet owing to defective arrangements for paying the workers the villagers did not resort freely to them. This defect it was never possible to rectify, and the numerous small works were subsequently closed, and the workers concentrated on large work where closer supervision could be provided. Lieutenant Haworth also reported that Sahibzada Hidayatulla Khan had organised three large poor-houses near the city, and while excluding the many able-bodied loafers who used formerly to frequent them, had so arranged that the really deserving should be properly fed and comfortably housed.

Early in January I again visited Tonk, and was relieved to find that the people were still in very fair condition. They were parting with everything they could, and the abnormal amount of silver coin in the bazar showed that they must have been bringing out laid-up hordes. Besides which, in this Mohamedan State, it is permissible to kill cattle and eat beef. Thousands of cattle therefore which would have perished uselessly in a Hindu State were now killed. Numbers were brought in for sale from surrounding States, and this unusual meat supply greatly helped to stave off famine, so that for a short time longer the pinch was not felt.

In January Lieutenant S. H. Jacob, I.S.C., joined the Agency, and in February proceeded to Nimbahera, where he remained throughout the famine. His Highness the Nawab, the Prime Minister, Mr. Wakefield and myself visited the parganas. It had now become apparent that any system of village relief as contemplated in the Famine Code was quite impracticable owing to the untrustworthiness of the village officials and the absence of any reliable supervising staff. Under the instructions of the Durbar, work was concentrated upon two

large tanks within easy reach of Nimbahera, and all destitute people were collected in one central poor-house near the town.

In March His Highness the Nawab, accompanied by the Prime Minister and Mr. Wakefield, visited the Chhabra and Sironj parganas, in neither of which distress had yet declared itself. During this month a certain number of people obtained employment in gathering the scanty rabi harvest. Mr. Wakefield again visited the Pirawat pargana, and in consultation with the Nazim, Sayad Mohamed, who had shown much zeal and ability in organising relief in this isolated pargana, so arranged the tasks and rates of wages as to induce more of the cultivating classes to come on the works, but though the tasks were always so regulated that a man for a fair day's work could earn the value of a seer of grain, the people showed extraordinary reluctance in coming on to the works.

At Nimbahera Lieutenant Jacob devoted his time to organising the poor-house, and toured through the pargana with the State officials, removing any existing impediments preventing the people coming to the works or poor-houses.

In April the distress began sensibly to deepen, and towards the end of the month cholera appeared in Nimbahera, but Lieutenant Jacob took such prompt measures for protecting the poor-houses that it never gained a footing there, and soon disappeared from the town also. In the Tonk pargana, which I visited during the month, distress was less severe, and His Highness showed his interest in the relief measures by constantly inspecting the works. The poor-houses were kept clean and orderly, and well-organised, and the officials in charge took pride in showing them. It was now apparent that the promptitude of the Durbar in adopting measures of relief had prevented much distress.

Many of the lesser works round Tonk had now been completed, and as Mr. Milne had finished his survey of the railway down the Banas River Valley work on that was commenced. Mr. Wakefield and Babu Damodar Chintaman organised an efficient supervising staff, and the work was carried out efficiently and economically, though it never attracted the cultivating classes to the extent that I had hoped. Here as in Bundi this class showed extreme reluctance to digging, and many hundreds must have undoubtedly died in their villages, though relief was at hand if they had only chosen to seek it.

In May Mr. Wakefield left the Agency on transfer to Udaipur and Lieutenant L. H. Abbott, I.S.C., arrived in Tonk to act as famine relief officer. Cholera had now appeared here also, and driven many people from the works, but the epidemic proved to be of a mild type and they soon returned. The Durbar took efficient measures for treating the wells of the city with permanganate of potassium, and ample supplies of cholera medicines were procured and distributed.

When Major Dunlop Smith visited Tonk in November, he had impressed very strongly upon the Durbar the necessity for providing against the loss of cattle which must certainly occur. When His Highness was touring through Sironj in March he ordered that ₹5,000 should be devoted to buying cattle there, where they were plentiful, and marching them to Nimbahera, where they were much needed. Mr. Wakefield pressed the matter still further, and measures were now taken for buying cattle whenever they were procurable, so that they might be ready for distribution when the rains commenced.

The whole of June passed without rain falling, and distress deepened greatly in consequence. During the month the work of purchasing bullocks and preparing lists of those who should receive them as gifts from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was prosecuted uninterruptedly. Lieutenant Jacob proceeded to Rutlam, and succeeded in purchasing some excellent bullocks there at an average rate of ₹18 each. These and others which had been purchased in Sironj were marched or railed to Nimbahera, and fed there at the expense of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund till the rain would break.

But no rains fell till July 10th, and the difficulty and expense of procuring grass was great. As soon as the monsoon was well established, the work of distribution of the cattle and of the gifts for the purchase of seed grain commenced, under the supervision of Lieutenant Jacob in Nimbahera, Lieutenant Abbott in Tonk and Aligarh, and of the Nazim of Pirawa in that pargana. As the rain fell the workers returned to their fields, the numbers on relief began to.

diminish, and all who were well enough to leave the poor-houses and wished to leave were given a small gratuity from the Charitable Fund.

In August good rain continued to fall. His Highness the Nawab and myself visited the Nimbahera pargana, and it was decided to close the works as soon as the little remaining work on the Uncha Tank was completed. The cultivators had been greatly helped by the gifts of bullocks and money for seed-grain, and nearly the normal amount of land was being sown. The poor-house was in excellent order, and Lieutenant Jacob had distributed clothing and blankets to the inmates, and had so carefully supervised the whole organisation of the establishment that the majority of the inmates were now in very fair condition, and could be allowed to return to their homes with a small gift of money and new clothes. The Nazim of Pirawa also came to Nimbahera to meet His Highness, and reported that the bullocks he had purchased in the surrounding districts had been distributed, as well as money gifts to cultivators; two new tanks had been completed and were now filling well and old ones had been repaired.

The health of the distressed tract was good till the cholera epidemic broke out, but this was not of a severe type, the total number of deaths in Tonk City, which has a population of over 50,000 inhabitants, was 1,058. Since the rain fell diarrhœa has been very prevalent. On the outbreak of cholera wells were treated with permanganate of potassium, and guards were placed over them to prevent any but special metal buckets being used in drawing water from them. Special cholera camps were also established, and cholera medicines were freely distributed on the works and in surrounding villages. Lieutenant Jacob was especially energetic in inspecting villages, and succeeded in stamping out the disease in many of them.

The sum of R1,50,000 has been allotted to the Tonk State from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. The whole of this has not yet been expended, but it is proposed to apportion it under the various heads as follows :—

		R
1.	Under object I	18,517
2.	,, ,, II	3,000
3.	,, ,, III	306
4.	,, ,, IV	1,25,527
5.	Miscellaneous—	
	(*a*) Office Expenditure	2,650
	(*b*) Other Expenditure	
	TOTAL	1,50,000

Upon no object has it been more usefully employed than on the purchase of bullocks, and the people are most intensely grateful for the help thus afforded them.

The greater part of the cultivating classes were in debt before the famine, and they are now almost hopelessly ruined. Many also of the smaller money-lenders have become bankrupt, and one large banking firm having dealings in the Nimbahera pargana is said to have lost five lakhs through the failure of the crops last year, and the consequent inability of the cultivators to repay their loans to the village bannias and of the bannias to repay their loans to this large firm. At the present time as the rains have proved abundant money can readily be obtained by those cultivators who have bullocks or security, but from last August till now the bannias would not lend money except on first rate security to cultivators owning land irrigated from wells.

In my report on Bundi, I have made remarks on the encouragement and direction of emigration in future scarcity years, which are equally applicable to Tonk. I will only add that if it is wise to encourage emigration in scarcity years it would be equally wise to encourage immigration in ordinary years. All the parganas of Tonk and especially Sironj could support a larger population than they at present hold, and the State should be glad to receive immigrants.

It is estimated by the Durbar that 70 per cent. of the cattle have died in the affected area. This is perhaps an excessive estimate. But probably 50 per cent. may have succumbed. A small attempt was made in Tonk to preserve cattle by buying them up and sending them away to districts where grass was plentiful, but only about 300 were removed in this way, as no funds except

those raised by private subscriptions were available. Lieutenant Jacob also organised a kind of poor-house for cattle to which decrepit animals belonging to poor cultivators were admitted and fed till the arrival of the rains. The cultivators were, however, very suspicious of trusting their cattle, and the numbers admitted did not exceed 90.

Bullocks have been bought with the Charitable Famine grant, and more still will be purchased for distribution to the people in the rabi sowings.

The remarks I made in my report on Bundi in regard to the power of resistance of the people, the opinion of the people with regard to relief measures, and the political effect, apply equally to Tonk. The cultivating classes are now hopelessly in debt either to the State or to the money-lenders. Many even of the latter are also ruined through a succession of bad years and the death of many of their clients. Dealers in cotton, linseed and spice have been nearly as much ruined as the agricultural classes. The nobility of Tonk with a few exceptions are in debt in ordinary times, and they are now still more heavily involved. And the State itself with a revenue of 12½ lakhs of rupees is 27 lakhs in debt. The future prospects cannot therefore be very favourable. But all the parganas of Tonk are of good rich soil: all the new tanks which have been made this year and the old tanks which have been repaired will benefit the State and bring in additional revenue: the Jaipur-Madhopur Railway will benefit the Tonk and Aligarh parganas and the Chhabra pargana will begin to reap the advantages of the new Bina-Bara Railway, which was only opened last year, and which connects it with the Indian Midland Railway system. These are some advantages which the State can reckon on, but the future prospects must of course mainly depend upon the rainfall.

The direction of the relief measures in Tonk was from the first, under His Highness the Nawab's general directions, in the hands of Sahibzada Sir Obeidulla Khan, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., who early recognised the severity of the impending famine, and by his promptitude in organising measures of relief saved much subsequent distress. He always showed himself anxious to carry on relief measures to the utmost limit of the power of the State.

IX.—MEWAR.

The area of the Mewar State, excluding the Hilly Tracts of Kherwara and Kotra, is 12,753 square miles, and the population at the Census of 1891 was 1,727,899. The whole of this area may be said to have been more or less seriously affected by famine.

The late famine was due to the scanty rainfall for 2 years in succession, the falls during the years 1898 and 1899 being only 14 and 11 inches, respectively, as compared with an average fall of 25 inches. The whole of the rain in 1899 fell in June, and both the Kharif (rainy season) crop and the fodder, except in a few patches irrigated by wells and tanks, perished, causing serious distress.

The Local Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was formed in April, and was composed of the following gentlemen:—

President.

Captain A. F. Pinhey, Resident, Mewar.

Members.

Major H. R. Woolbert, I.M.S., Resident Surgeon.
Captain J. Pinney, Famine Officer, Mewar.
The Rev. Dr. Shepherd, Presbyterian Missionary.
The Rev. Mr. Jameson, Presbyterian Missionary.
Kathari Bulwant Singh, Chief Ministerial Officer, Mewar.
Mehta Bhopal Singh, Revenue Officer, Mewar.
The Mewar Vokil in attendance on the Resident, Honorary Treasurer.
Seth Chand Mul, Residency Treasurer, Honorary Secretary.
Mr. A. F. Pierce, Head clerk, Mewar Residency.

The total receipts of the Committee amounted to R2,79,001-10-0 of which R2,70,000 were received from the Rajputana Provincial Committee, R8,770-2-6 were contributed locally, and R231-7-6 formed other receipts.

The sum disbursed by the Committee amounted to R2,73,492-14-2 and was expended as under—

		R	a.	p.
Object	I	18,917	3	10
„	II	3,928	2	9
„	III	9,435	14	0
„	IV	2,38,300	14	6
Miscellaneous		2,880	11	1

The relief afforded under Object I consisted in the distribution of blankets and clothing, and the provision of extra food and medical comforts in the various poor-houses, hospitals and other similar institutions maintained by the State and the Presbyterian Mission at Udaipur, and in supplementing the dole in gratuitous relief.

The expenditure under Object II was incurred in subsidising the Mission orphanage.

The amount under Object III was expended in relieving 4,189 Pardanashin women and other respectable persons by gifts of money to purchase clothing, and grant of money doles to purchase food.

Under Object IV the expenditure incurred was in providing plough cattle and seed-grain to ruined agriculturists, and in the grant of allowances for their maintenance till their crops ripened.

The Committee experienced great difficulty at first in finding a reliable agency for the distribution of the charity provided by the fund. The area was large, European officers were few, and it took a very long time to obtain trustworthy information about distress from Jagirdars and outlying districts. The work of distribution was therefore much delayed and was continued through the cold weather, and up to the end of February, in order that as many as possible might benefit from the fund. Meetings of the Committee were held every week at the Residency between April and November, and all demands for assistance were carefully discussed before being rejected, or complied with.

Blankets and medical comforts were distributed chiefly through the Residency Surgeon and the two missionary members of the Committee. The money for orphans was entrusted to the Rev. Dr. Shepherd, and his institution was inspected by other members of the Committee from time to time.

The distribution of money to Pardanashin women and others was undertaken in the city of Udaipur by the Rev. Mr. Jameson, and has undoubtedly been the means of saving the lives of a large number of respectable people who would otherwise have undoubtedly starved. Most of the money was expended on Object IV under the direct supervision of Captain Pinney, Mr. Wakefield, Lieutenant St. John, who was especially deputed for the purpose in July, Mr. Pierce and the Resident. Captain Pinney and Mr. St. John were chiefly engaged amongst the Bhils, both Khalsa and Jagir, Mr. Wakefield distributed money for seed-grain and bullocks, which were afterwards purchased and inspected by the Resident during the cold weather, in Deogarh, Bednore and other northern jagirs of Mewar, and the Resident and Mr. Pierce continued the distribution of bullocks in the north, centre and east of Mewar during their cold weather tour. In addition to these agencies it was found necessary to employ two young sardars, Mondho Singh and Indar Singh, of Batera, to draw up lists of deserving cultivators and distribute money and bullocks in certain jagir tracts, their work being afterwards carefully inspected and checked.

Rupees twenty-thousand were distributed through Hakims to those in urgent need of assistance, whose wants could not at the time be personally attended to by European officers, and it was afterwards ascertained that these persons did actually receive their doles according to the lists furnished by the Hakims.

Several pairs of bullocks were also distributed to Bhils under the personal guarantee and recommendation of Dr. Shepherd, whose acquaintance with these people is unique, and enabled him to recommend only such persons as were really deserving of charity.

X.—KHERWARA AND KOTRA DISTRICTS.

There were many signs during the early part of the year that the rains of 1899 would be a failure. The hot weather was almost identical with that of

1877 in Morar, where I was stationed at the time, constant clouds threatening of unseasonable rain and exceptional coolness.

From the beginning of 1899 water began to fail in wells and pools and fodder was scarce, but grain was cheap.

Since 1897 when 23 inches 17 cents were registered the rainfall has been very deficient. The rabi of 1898 was only saved by the rain which fell lightly but continuously in September. Very little kharif, however, could be sown, as the rainfall was not sufficiently heavy for the ground to retain moisture for unirrigated crops. What little was sown was in many places destroyed by young locusts, notably in the large tract of country occupied by the pals of Kagdar Masara and Khandi, Ubri, Badla, Mandwa, Padurri, Pogra, Palasia and Karcha, also in the Khalsa tract, Rakabnath, Bhorai, Bilak and Dhankawara. A certain amount of distress was caused from December 1898 to June 1899 by the insufficiency of the water-supply, but the rain which fell in the latter month—3·82 inches—filled up the wells temporarily.

When the rain practically ceased in July the maize crop was about four feet high. This gradually withered and died and the Bhils sold it for fodder. From that moment famine set in, for the Bhils were already, as is their custom, subsisting on advances of grain made by the bannias against the growing crop. When this died the bannia closed his shop and deliberately waited till he could fix his prices in accordance with the rates which would prevail for imported grain.

The Bhils meanwhile eked out a precarious existence by the sale of the fodder (karbi) of the dead crop, of grass, wood, etc. This lasted till November, when they began to eat their cattle and to emigrate. The latter was the most fatal thing they could do, but no amount of reasoning made any impression on them; they would go. In former years they had gone to the banks of the Mahi, or even to the Narbada and they had found grazing for their cattle, why should they not find it now?

I explained to them that the famine was widespread and that their cattle would all be dead before they got to any place where grazing existed, and wrote to the Idar authorities asking them to reason with men passing through their territory, and, if possible, send them back. In vain; no Bhil would listen; they went out by the southern passes and the eventual fate of most of them is uncertain. Some may be on relief works in Guzerat, Malwa and the Rewa-Kantha, but those who returned came back living skeletons and few survived the hardships they had gone through. Some had turned back from Malwa, their cattle having been stolen and themselves maltreated, some from the Narbada, and some from Khandesh, and all they could say was: "there is neither grain nor grazing in the whole world," their limited ideas not extending beyond the latter river.

I think that 10 per cent. of the population disappeared in this way. Out of this a number must be alive, but information is at present unobtainable. The sad part of the business is that these men were the moderately well-to-do members of the Bhil community; men who in ordinary times had herds of goats and cattle and owned the land they tilled.

I have furnished the description of the emigrants to enable me to pass on to the next class, but it must not be imagined that they returned at once. Those who did return came back in driblets and on widely different dates.

I now pass on to the thriftless members of the community. The first breath of famine simply wiped them out. They had subsisted on grain earned by odd jobs and jungle produce all their lives. They had never known what it was to have a week's provision in their houses; in fact, as long as a few mouthfuls of grain were in the hut, they would not work for any man. Such as fled to the poor-houses at Kherwara and Kotra were saved for a time at least, but the vast majority perished at once. With stolid indifference they sat down and died, refusing to work or to do anything to save themselves. The women and children to a large extent did make an effort to come into Kherwara and Kotra, but the men held firm to their tenet that to work is unbefitting a Bhil. To rob is honourable, but to accept charity disgraceful.

The small means at our disposal in the early days of the famine were strained to the uttermost in trying to cope with the distress and the number of deaths in proportion to total inmates of kitchens and poor-houses was large.

None would come till they were on the point of death; having sold everything down to their clothes and having no protection, the bitter cold of December, January and February brought on chest and bowel complaints from which many died. With the exception of such as are in the poor-houses, kitchens and orphanages, I believe the thriftless portion of the population, aggregating seven per cent. of the whole, perished.

In addition to the want of food the Bhils had to cope with another and nearly equally serious want, *viz.*, that of water. The preceding years with their scanty rainfall had not more than temporarily replenished the springs and wells, and as the cold weather drew to a close the water supply grew more and more scanty, deficient and tainted. The wells dried up and as men and cattle jointly used the rapidly drying pools the quality deteriorated as the quantity diminished. As a result an epidemic of dysentery and diarrhœa set in, which had nothing to do with the similar famine diseases.

Well digging was gone in for to try and obtain a supply of water, but the results were small, as such water as there was lay deep down in a bed of trap rock, necessitating blasting on a large scale.

I think that eight per cent. of the Bhils may be said to have died from the scarcity and bad quality of the water-supply in the Hilly Tracts.

We were free from cholera till May, when it broke out—travelling from Ajmer on the one hand, *viâ* Bhilwara, Udaipur, Rikhabnath, Dungarpur to Kherwara, and thence into almost every village and pal in the district, from Jodhpur, *viâ* Mhairpur, Kotra, Som, etc., to Kherwara on the other hand, the cross currents striking the strip of country round Kherwara with great violence. In addition to the deaths from cholera, which I estimate at 10 per cent. of the population, cholera was the cause of many deaths from starvation, as the Bhils *en masse* abandoned the relief works when it broke out and scattered far and wide through the country in search of safety from the scourge, only to perish from hunger on the far distant hills where it was impossible to get relief to them. So terrified were they at this climax to their distress, that I could not persuade a large number to come in and take free rations; they preferred the slow but almost certain death by starvation to the chance of a rapid and terrifying death by cholera.

Throughout the famine there have been a certain number of what for want of a better term I may call wanderers. They came to poor-houses or kitchens, did not like the conditions of life there, and wandered on to the next or begged from house to house; of these I can give no account. I do not know where they have gone or what has become of them. They were abjectly poor, and I fear that the long continued distress has proved too much for their enfeebled frames. They were incorrigible vagrants, and I do not know of any form of relief which would be likely to meet their necessities. They formed about seven per cent. of the population, and I suppose in part or whole must be put down as having perished; at any rate, I cannot trace them.

I now come to those who may be said to have died of starvation pure and simple. They are formed of several classes. In the early stages of famine there were a large number of Bhils, Patels, Jogis, Bhuis, Bulias, Girrasias and other similar castes who under ordinary circumstances were for these people fairly well-to-do. They had cattle and there was an abundance of bamboo in the Nals close to their homes and the leaves of the bamboo afforded ample food for their cattle. These men lived in the forest pals in the most inaccessible parts of the hills. They refused to go on relief works of any kind. I walked from pal to pal, as the mountain paths were impassable to a mounted man. I reasoned with them, but they would not budge. They said that if they left their homes their cattle would starve. I then asked them to send a certain number from each hut, but they still refused, as they said they wanted all the men to guard the cattle and all the women and children to graze them and collect bamboo leaves. Finding nothing would move them, I gave out a contract to the men of Jalab Khan and neighbouring pals for bamboo mats, this being an article they trade in in ordinary times. The pals were quite small ones, and I offered to buy 500 mats at R2-8 Imperial each, the usual price being one to one-eight Udaipuri a mat. To the large pal of Sagwara I gave out a contract for wood up to one thousand Imperial rupees, fixing the price of each item according to the wishes of the headmen, and a contract for five hundred rupees worth of lime.

After a lapse of one month, finding that neither mats nor wood were forthcoming, I sent out to say that grain or money, whichever they pleased, was ready for them when they brought the articles in. An answer came back, "Say to our father 'who will take so much trouble?'" Almost immediately afterwards information came in that the people of Sagwara had fallen on Jalab Khan, killed and eaten all their cattle, and had begun to loot right and left. Then a few of the latter came on the works, but so starved and emaciated, that few survived more than a week.

The second and largest class of all were those who could not make up their minds to go on the works till it was too late. They put off the evil day till, when they put in an appearence at the relief works, they were past succour. The moment they were given food famine diarrhœa and dysentery set in, and they died. This was so often the case, that the Bhils of the worst stricken part of the district, *viz.*, those of Kagdar, Ubri, etc., started a tale that the Colonel took in all who asked for food, fed them well for ten days, and then poisoned them. Another group of villages near Kherwara spread a report (evolved from the fact that all who died in the Kherwara poor-house were buried in a long valley adjacent to their hills) that the people of Cantonments had vowed to fill that valley with graves to propitiate the goddess who was ravaging the country. Canards of this kind were common and did much harm.

The third class were those who, despite these tales, had tasted the bread of idleness in the kitchens and poor-houses. When they regained their strength and were drafted off to the works they ran away, and, knowing that admission to the poor-house or kitchen they had left was improbable, wandered from one place to another refusing work and demanding gratuitous relief, till, reduced once more to skeletons, they fell and died by the roadside.

The fourth class were those who, specially in the early stages of the famine, when money, grain and transport were equally wanting, could not get food. The sudden influx of great numbers of starving, when relief measures were in their infancy, the grain stocks either consumed or hidden away by their owners, camels unprocurable except by outbidding others who were equally in need, and charity only just awakening, overtaxed the slender resources at our disposal, and undoubtedly many died.

The total of the four classes above enumerated, including those who died of ordinary diseases and those who fled owing to cholera from relief works and subsequently died of starvation, I put down at eight per cent., making a total estimated possible loss of fifty per cent. This is only a rough and ready reckoning, for correct information is unprocurable at present; ninety-five per cent. of this loss is amongst the Bhil population.

As a set-off I hope that a good number of emigrants would have found relief on the works in Malwa, Mahi Kantha and Guzerat. It is quite possible that it may be so, but no enquiries would get correct information, as the Bhils, if suspicious of any intention to turn them away from poor-houses, etc., will instantly give a false name and residence.

Out of the thriftless some may have survived. I have lately heard that there are some at the Durbar kitchen at Daboke, the other side of Udaipur; some more may be in Udaipur itself and at the various works and kitchens between Udaipur and Kherwara, but the number cannot be estimated.

Exact estimates as to the number of those who died from starvation is not possible. Enquiries from the Bhils elicit but two answers—"starvation" or "cholera." Their answers are often false. For instance, the men of a family have joined one of the looting gangs, have been captured or killed whilst committing a dacoity, or have wandered, abandoning wife and children, or died a natural death, the answer will yet be, "he died of starvation" or "he died of "cholera."

The mission kitchens are simply food-distributing centres, and share in a large degree with the Kherwara kitchen the reputation of interfering to a certain extent with relief works, but undoubtedly were money supplies unlimited would save more lives than any other description of relief. No work is demanded, no question asked; it is simply come and take.

State aid cannot meet a famine by these means. To have fed and restored to comparative prosperity the Kherwara district by the aid of kitchens would have required two lakhs of rupees a month at least. Still the kitchens have

done a wonderful amount of good, but I would note for future guidance that those who come to kitchens and are sufficiently strong should be put on some light work.

The Rev. C. S. Thompson and the Rev. A. Outram have done grand service. The former died in harness from cholera; he had spent the last 20 years amongst the Bhils, to whom he was much attached. He was looking after the distribution of grain on the Idar side of our border, and I cannot give an exact description of his work, but I know the general outlines. He worked like a hero and died one. A dying man on a native cot under a tree in the jungle, gently put down by a few of the wild tribesmen who had tried to bring him into Kherwara alive, faithfully tended to the end and then reverently brought to the nearest Mission School. I can paint the scene to myself from what I have heard. I think there is no cause for sorrow, for Mr. Thompson died as he would have wished to die—amonst his Bhils, helping them to the end.

I have heard that the tribesmen who brought the body in faithfully handed over a large bag of money which had been entrusted to them by the dying man. Characteristics like this make all the officers who have served in Bhil land so fond of that strange medley a "Bhil." The Rev. A. Outram has superintended the kitchens at Kagdar, Ubri and Kanbey in the Kherwara district, and those of Pipli in Khalsa, Mewar, and Bokla, Dungarpur. He has fed daily numbers gradually increasing to 3,500 in all the stations. The exact numbers for Kherwara alone I do not know. He has also kept up a small orphange at Kherwara, where the services of Mrs. Outram have been of inestimable value, services freely given in spite of continuous ill-health due to exposure.

I have heard that exaggerated accounts have been given of the crime which has been prevalent in this district. This is to be deprecated. I do not for one moment mean it to be understood that crime has been normal; but the excess over ordinary times has been much smaller than would be expected, taking into consideration the utter upheaval of a society owing to the famine.

The reasons for the increase of crime are, firstly, that the Bhil men would not come to relief works or kitchens, though they sent their women and children in any number. They demanded gratuitous relief, or that kalals and bannias should sell to them on credit. The former I had not the means to give, the latter the tradesmen refused to do.

The class of men who owned stores of grain would not sell to the Bhils at all; but either hid what they had in cellars dug in the ground or tried to convey it secretly at night to the larger towns and villages. Can it be wondered at that the Bhil was infuriated when he saw grain wrung from him in the previous year at 30 seers taken away to be disposed of at 4 seers per Udaipuri rupee to the well-to-do in the towns, whilst he, even when he had money, was not allowed to buy, and was left to starve?

Nine-tenths of the serious crime which has occurred comes under the heading of attacks on village kalals' and bannias' grain stores.

Secondly, the Bhil at the best of times is not particularly honest, and under stress of hunger did not improve. Still the crime came under the heading of petty offences, mostly consisting of snatching away small bundles of grain from passing women, and similar acts.

A few instances of grain convoys being attached took place, but in districts not under my charge. The assailants were easily beaten off, and it is peculiar that every man captured whilst attacking a convoy or grain store was a stout well-fed man.

The reports which come in from the districts are most misleading. The Bhumia Chiefs, Makrani and (Vilayati country-born) sepoys to account for their not having prevented houses in their charge being looted ride in and say that they were attacked by one hundred Bhils, ten houses cleared out and five villagers murdered; that they only prevented the entire destruction of the village by most heroic bravery. The Kamdar, with a view to getting compensation from the neighbouring State to balance the evil deeds of his own Bhils, enlarges to the extent that five hundred Bhils came, murdered one sepoy, wounded ten villagers, looted the entire village and carried off property valued at three thousand rupees, and demands instant justice. I either go out or send the Vakil, and find that 20 Bhils came, carried off two goats and three seers of grain, threw

a stone and hit the owner on the chest, inflicting severe bruise, beat the housewife because she recognized and abused them, and quietly retired to the next village to which they belonged. Crime has been very little in my opinion in the Kherwara district, taking all things into consideration, and the number of attacks on convoys on all roads has been exactly 5, *viz.*—

1. On the 19th of February at Rakabnath Khalsa, Mewar.
2. „ „ 19th of April at Paduna Khalsa, Mewar.
3. „ „ 24th of April at Kotra Pai Khalsa, Mewar.
4. „ „ 12th May at Bhawnath, Guzerat.
5. „ „ 28th May at Rakabnath Khalsa, Mewar.

I can give no statistics for adjoining districts, but I should say that any trouble which may have occurred is due as usual to the large and turbulent pals, which have never been thoroughly in hand.

In the Kherwara district on a liberal estimate no more than 5 per cent. of the cattle are left and this in the future will cause the shoe to pinch most severely, for until the Bhil gets plough-cattle there is very little hope for him. Hand-ploughs, phaoras and kodalis he will not use, and till he can plough his land the bannia will not unbend.

To restore the country to something like prosperity or to make it once again self-supporting, I have estimated that I want for Kherwara and Kotra seven thousand rupees in cash as gifts to those who, with the aid of a little help and the assistance of a village bannia, can purchase bullocks, and I need 3,767 head of cattle. There is manure for the rabi crop, but unless cattle are provided there will be neither bullocks nor manure for the khariff.

The wants of Kherwara to those of Kotra being as 5 is to 2. The cattle cannot be imported yet, as there is neither fodder nor grazing in the land, but as soon as the grass springs up they should be landed at Udaipur, and I will send strong guards to protect them in. I cannot suggest where the money is to come from. It cannot be obtained locally, as the sum involved is a lakh of rupees, and there is absolutely no money in the district.

We have suffered extremes of heat and cold previously unknown in this district. December, January and February were bitter months with a high east wind blowing night and day. Water froze in vessels in camp nightly and great suffering was caused to the ill-clad and underfed Bhils. By underfed I do not mean famine-stricken. The Bhil is a class habitually underfed and quite unable with his very scanty clothing to face extremes of heat and cold. His sole covering at night is a long sheet called an *arhaipatta*, formed, as its name indicates, from two and a half strips of coarse cotton cloth. He stretches this over him on the side furthest from the fire, lies down in the open by a wood fire, toasting the other and semi-nude side, till the heat getting more than he can bear, he reverses his body but not the sheet. In this manner he passes the night and can it be wondered at that when the cold becomes extraordinarily severe he suffers from many fatal respiratory diseases.

As the hot weather set in the reverse was the case. We suffered from a degree of heat previously unknown to us, the thermometer on one occasion running up to a few decimals above 112° in the hospital verandah in the shade. Violent winds still blew night and day, but generally from the west. Often and often the wind was red hot throughout the twenty-four hours, accompanied by the blinding dust and heavy clouds. This state of affairs increased in intensity till the beginning of May and caused much sickness, breaking down many an enfeebled frame which otherwise might have lasted till the rains.

Early in May the dust storms, wind and heat got worse and worse, till often I had to work in the day time by the lamp light. Clouds grew more frequent and heavy. Half an inch of rain fell and cholera arrived.

Clouds, dust, wind, heat and cholera remained with us till the beginning of June, when another shower fell and gradually the dust and sickness died out, but not till the loss of life throughout this and the adjacent districts had been very heavy indeed.

The poor Bhil has had nearly everything against him and little in his favour. Poor, wretchedly poor and ill-fed at the best of times, this combination of evils has had disastrous effects. As one of them said to me, "if we go to the works we die from the hot wind and the cholera, and if we stay away we die of hunger or thirst."

The water level has sunk rapidly ever since last rains. Nothing but unremitting labour could keep the bottom of wells within the water-bearing stratum. Yet in some places the water played strange tricks. Rivers long dry would suddenly start running and as suddenly cease, pools and wells mysteriously filled up during the night only to dry again. I put this down to the intense heat and dryness starting long fissures deep into the earth, which enabled imprisoned water to escape.

XI.—DUNGARPUR.

The area of the Dungarpur State is 1,445 square miles, its population being now 1,00,018. The whole State was severely affected by famine, but real distress was almost entirely confined to the Bhils. The rainfall in 1899 being only 10·29 inches as against a normal rainfall of about 30 inches, consequently both kharif and rabi crops failed entirely, and in addition to this there was a great scarcity even of drinking water.

The Bhils who formed a large proportion of the population of the Dungarpur State, and who depended much on natural products contingent on a good rainfall, were the first to feel the pinch of the distress; and as the distress developed, their condition become desperate: coupled with the famine a terribly severe epidemic of cholera swept over the country and caused dire mortality among all classes.

Local subscriptions were collected, amounting to R1,293-12-1, and a grant of R5,000 was made by the Provincial Committee, supplemented by further grants amounting to the very generous sum of R63,000.

The total amount thus received by the Committee has been spent as follows:—

	R	*a.*	*p.*
Object I	3,118	0	11
„ II	...		
„ III	757	12	6
„ IV	56,772	1	2
Miscellaneous	203	6	4

The strictest supervision was exercised in utilizing the money spent, and all grants of money or bullocks under Object IV, which absorbed the greater portion of the expenditure, were made under the personal supervision of the Assistant Resident and Lieutenant Nicolas, and in some cases of the Kamdar, while the poor-house was managed by Subedar Kuber Sing, 3rd Bombay Light Infantry, who will be referred to later.

The money received from the Committee enabled me to greatly ameliorate the condition of the inmates of the poor-house; such things as sago, milk, vegetables, etc., were unprocurable in Dungarpur, and with the funds at the disposal of the Committee we were able to get tinned milk from Bombay and to import sago and other comforts. Good substantial clothing too was distributed and blankets provided when the rains set in. It may be readily understood how welcome such things were; but the people in the poor-houses, mostly Bhils, did not seem capable of expressing their gratitude even if they felt it. Such was not, however, the case when seed-grain and plough bullocks were distributed, and I took particular care always to impress on the recipients that it was not the State or Government that they had to thank, but Englishmen and others in India and in far away England, which is hard, however, for a Bhil, who has never been beyond his own wooded hills and valleys, to understand, especially when it is remembered that very very few of them have ever seen or heard of a railway or train.

The first lot of 500 bullocks came from Sehore, and arrived only just in time to be of assistance in the kharif sowings, and at the same time liberal grants of maize seed were made.

It would have been impossible to get any animals from the railway at Udaipur till the rains had fairly started; no words can describe the barren desolation of that 66 miles of hot dusty road before the rains, with not a blade of grass or anything to be found on the way.

For the rabi sowings a further lot of 1,200 cattle were distributed and a large quantity of seed-grain. This time I obtained the cattle from Bajna and Rutlam as the river Mahi became fordable. I entrusted the money to Subedar

Kuber Singh, of the 3rd Bombay Light Infantry, on special famine duty, and he obtained a very fine lot of animals at the very low price of ₹11-6 per head. It is very satisfactory to be able to report that the money so generously contributed was most carefully applied, and that no misappropriation took place.

I was glad to see later how well the Bhils had utilized the seed-grain given them, especially the barley and chena, and the assistance which the money so generously placed at the disposal of the Local Committee enabled us to afford to so many people in their time of need cannot be overestimated.

It was at first a matter of some difficulty to get the Bhil to come in and receive the seed or bullock allotted to him as he has hitherto always been accustomed to be down-trodded, oppressed and treated as a mere animal, but once it was known that they were being summoned to receive cattle or seed as a free gift—a most unheard of occurrence, and not to be beaten and perhaps imprisoned—applicants flocked in to me from every quarter of the State, and it was very sad to have to refuse many who could not be provided for.

In contrast to even ordinary years nature was abnormally lavish of her jungle products after the rain set in, many things largely consumed by the Bhils being produced in abundant profusion.

Despite all one's efforts, however, the census has told a sad tale, and though many no doubt perished in the famine, the cholera, and subsequently dysentery and malaria, levied a far heavier toll on the population.

As I write this report I am about to distribute a seed called "chena" which is sown now and onwards to the rains, to the Bhils of the leading pals of Nimbarwarra and Mando to help them through the hot weather months and for which your Committee sent me a special grant of ₹3,000. If they knew how to express themselves, I am sure they would wish me to convey their gratitude to their unknown friends who have done so much to help them and alleviate their distress.

They all seem fairly happy now, and we will hope that a normal fall of rain this year will do something to help them to forget the year 1899-1900 when for the first time in their memory their old and staunch friends, the monsoon and the jungle forsook them.

XII.—BANSWARA, PARTABGARH AND KUSHALGARH.

The estates of Banswara and Partabgarh lie to the south of the State of Udaipur. Kushalgarh is a small Chiefship, in reality a feudatory of Banswara, but over the internal affairs of which Banswara has no control. The area of Partabgarh is 886 square miles. That of Banswara with Kushalgarh 1,946, of which some 360 square miles belong to Kushalgarh.

The populations at the last census were:—

Banswara (with Kushalgarh) 211,641, of whom 137,000 were Bhils. Partabgarh 87,975, of whom 26,705 were Bhils. These numbers, however, were not accurate, as owing to the backward nature of the States, no real census operations were carried out. The numbers especially of the Bhils were greatly over-estimated as the coming census will show.

With regard to physical features, the greater part of Partabgarh lies on the Malwa plateau, and contains excellent soil and tanks. There is in this portion, however, no perennial stream. The smaller or western portion of the State consists of hilly, broken ground, densely wooded and in parts well watered with small streams, which depend entirely on the rainfall. This portion of the State is inhabited by Bhils. The jungles contain abundant grass and bamboo. Even last year the grass did not entirely fail, and the Bhils were thus greatly assisted by being able to sell it and bamboos.

Banswara and Kushalgarh consist entirely of hilly country covered in most parts with dense jungles. The valleys are intersected with ravines. The valleys themselves are, however, full of good soil, and there are a large number of tanks. One river, the Mahi, traverses Banswara, but, from the rocky and precipitious nature of its banks, the river is of little use for purposes of irrigation. The great drawback to this part of the country, that is, these two States, is the want of means of communication. Partabgarh is 20 miles off the line of rail, Banswara is 52 miles beyond Partabgarh, and Kushalgarh 24 miles

beyond Banswara. In all the 3,000 square miles of country there are only 12 miles of metalled road. Over the remaining part of the estates there are only fair-weather cross country tracks which are impassable in the rains. In fact when the rains commence all getting about must cease. The roads become quagmires and the nullahs raging torrents. The Mahi river, which lies between Banswara and Partabgarh, is unbridged and is impassable even on rafts for days on end. It will be thus seen that a great deal of the distribution of the charitable money had to be left to the members of the Committee.

Owing to the large and scattered area of the three States and the total absence of all means of communication it was impossible for me to personally supervise all the distributions. I, however, personally distributed as much as I could, in all, some ₹20,000. I also distributed a large number of cattle in Partabgarh, purchased in and from outside the State. The system for all other distributions was as follows :—

On reports being laid before the Committees from different tehsils, stating their wants, the Committee would allow a sum which to them appeared advisable, bearing in consideration the amount of money in hand and the requirements of the rest of the States. Two members of the Committee would then be deputed with the money allotted for the purpose and would personally investigate the claims and distribute suitable sums to the most deserving claimants in proportion to their needs. They would record the name of each recipient and the amount allotted to them and present this to the Committee on their return. With regard to the purchase of cattle from outside, in August I purchased one hundred head from Messrs. Abott & Co. at Sehore and paid ₹35 per head for them. Though the cattle were good, it was not altogether a satisfactory bargain. The people informed me that not only were the cattle dear but that many of them were totally unsuited to the country. They were heavy cattle and not at all suited to grazing on hill side and in broken country intersected with deep ravines. Moreover, the people informed me that they could purchase themselves suitable cattle for half that price. Except these, suitable cattle were purchased afterwards by the Committee, the money was given to the cultivators, and they have purchased smaller but excellent animals some times for ₹10 only. Rutlam is a great cattle trading centre and many were brought in to the States for sale.

In every case where I distributed money or cattle or where I afterwards on tour checked the distribution that had been made by the members of the Committee, I was careful to impress on the people where the money had come from and to explain to them the sympathy which was felt for them by the *sahiblog* over the seas. They were most grateful and in some instances the gifts were of great importance in another direction, as, though the Bhil census in these States had never been properly taken before, they afterwards seeing that interest was taken in them, and that our object was to obviously help and keep them alive, put no difficulty in the way of census officials. Previously they had always entertained an idea that their numbers would be taken only with a view to their being ultimately arrested and sacrified. The money thus, with the Bhils, fulfilled two purposes, it gave them considerable help and also showed them that they could have the utmost confidence in the rulers of the country whom they had before regarded rather in the light of ogres.

XIII.—AJMER.

The deficient rainfall of 1898 and the still more pronounced failure of the monsoon of 1899 caused severe distress in the very beginning as, with the stiffening of prices, this distress soon deepened into famine with the approach of the winter rains.

The famine of 1899-1900 affected the whole area of the district of 2,069·8 square miles. Excepting a portion of the urban population, the whole population consisting of 422,359 souls suffered the severities of the famine.

In 1897-98 the rainfall was above the average and well distributed. The kharif harvest was an average one, though it was partially damaged by locusts. The rabi crop was not so good as was anticipated owing to frost and high wind when the crop was ripening. In 1898-99 the rainfall was only 14·05 inches. The rains ceased early, and the kharif crops over a large portion of the barani land were damaged. In 1899-1900 the rainfall was 3·76 inches in June, 3·58 in July and ·59 in September. The skies cleared early in August, and under the hot sun and dry west wind the scanty moisture disappeared from the soil by the end of that month. The kharif crop dried up and never came to maturity, while the rabi area was restricted, as there was no water left in the tanks, and the water level in the wells had gone down considerably, while most wells were left without water for irrigation purposes.

By the middle of September 1899 the situation had become sufficiently grave to call for preparatory action, and when the authorities satisfied themselves that this small British district was face to face with a famine unprecedented in the annals of Rajputana, the Honorable Mr. A. H. T. Martindale, C.S.I., whom we had fortunately at the head of our administration took the initiative with commendable forethought and suggested to the Commissioner that the time had come when an appeal to the charitable public of the two districts for funds to alleviate distress which had begun to show itself should no longer be delayed. The administration has to be congratulated on anticipating a severe famine as early as the middle of September and taking steps to meet the calamity by organising relief works on an extensive scale.

In accordance with the Honorable Mr. Martindale's suggestion, a public meeting was held in the Marble Bara Dari at Ajmer on the 25th September 1899 when Mr. Tucker, the Commissioner, was invited to preside; after he had explained the objects of the meeting in a brief persuasive speech and the handsome donation of R1,000, contributed by the Honorable the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara had been announced, subscriptions amounting to R5,189 were promised on the spot, and the total subscriptions came up to R20,799-14-8. The public meeting agreed to the formation of an Executive Committee for the collection and administration of funds. This Committee consisted of:—

A. L. P. Tucker, Esq., I.C.S.
Rev. Dr. J. Husband, C.I.E.
Rao Bahadur G. R. Khandekar.
Munshi Damoder Lal.
„ Harnam Das.
Munshi Allahnur Khan.
K. B. Dr. Elahi Bakhsh.
R. B. Seth Mul Chand.
Seth Umed Mall.

At its first sitting on the 26th September 1899, the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Tucker to be its *President*, the Rev. Dr. J. Husband, C.I.E., and Rao Bahadur Pandit G. R. Khandekar, *Vice-Presidents*, Seth Umed Mall, *Banker* and *Treasurer*, and the writer of the present report as Secretary.

The Executive Committee was not sufficiently large, and as the circumstances of the district necessitated that all sections of the community should be fully represented, the following gentlemen were requested to join the Committee:—

The Assistant Cammissioner, Ajmer.
Col. D. FF. Mullen, M.D., Civil Surgeon, Ajmer.
A. T. Houldcroft, Esq.
F. Tebbs, Esq.
R. B. Seth Sobhag Mall.
Nawab Shams-ud-din Ali Khan.
Munshi Debi Dayal.
Seth Nemi Chand.
Rai Seth Chand Mall.
Munshi Bishamber Nath.
Mr. Cooverji Nowrosji.

With the formation of the Committee, steps were taken for the collection of funds, and one Sub-Committee was appointed to collect subscriptions, while another Sub-Committee was formed to gather information as to the extent of distress prevalent in the town, and to suggest means to alleviate it. The total amount of subscriptions was R29,337-10-10, and the subscribers may be classed as under:—

	R	a.	p.
Sale-proceeds of Government securities (balance of the famines, 1891-92 and 1897-98, invested in Government Promissory Notes)	8,392	15	2
Interest on Securities	122	8	0
Cash balance of 1897-98	22	5	0
H. H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur	2,500	0	0
Europeans	10,504	13	8
Hindu Seths	3,745	0	0
Other Hindu	1,767	1	0
Parsis	1,497	0	0
Mahomedans	786	0	0
TOTAL	29,337	10	10

The severity of distress had fully convinced the Committee of the futility of coping with it from subscriptions locally raised, and when substantial grants from the Mansion House Fund began to pour in, the local fund was merged into the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. These contributions which were obtained on the strong representation of the Commissioner to whom the Committee is largely indebted, augmented the funds at the disposal of the Local Committee and enabled them to considerably extend the scope of their operations. As the funds were practically supervised by local officers, the necessity of keeping two sets of accounts was dispensed with. The operations of the local fund, even when no subsidies had been received from the Calcutta Fund, were mostly confined to the forms of relief defined in the four objects of the Central Committee's report at Calcutta. The grants from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund came to R1,69,023.

Having regard to the noted wealth of Ajmer, it might be said that the contributions from the local Seths did not satisfy general expectations and were far short of those of their fellows in other parts of the country, but there had been no want of charity in the town, as private charity had not contracted and was in full operation. As soon as the influx of Marwaris and other foreigners into Ajmer was noticed, and this being one of the first symptoms of an impending famine, the local Seths immediately started a fund to feed these wandering foreigners on "Kechri" every evening, and this was continued for about two months when all these wanderers were gradually drafted to relief works. This form of relief is said to have cost the Ajmer people between R4,000 and R5,000, and they succeeded in relieving nearly 40,000 persons.

While one private fund was relieving the wandering mendicants, another was started to relieve the dumb animals. This fund was meant to save horned cattle. The Cattle Protection Committee is reported to have collected about R5,200 and saved nearly 800 heads of cattle by exporting them to Mutra, Cawnpur, Gwalior and other districts where fodder was procurable. It is, however, to be regretted that all these cattle after this heavy expenditure were lost to the districts, as these dumb animals were left to the tender mercies of low paid servants who either starved them to death or sold them as they were not animated by the same benevolent spirit and intentions as their masters who expressed to me their extreme regret at the failure of their scheme and the want of system and method, pointed out by me to them in the very beginning of their operations.

The table given below shows the income and expenditure of the Committee :—

Receipts.	R	a.	p.	Expenditure.	R	a.	p.
Sale proceeds of Government Securities and cash balance	8,537	12	2	Under Object I	43,161	10	6
Private Subscription	20,799	14	8	,, II	3,234	11	7
Grants from Provincial Committee	1,69,023	0	0	,, III	36,604	0	6
Other Miscellaneous Receipts	3,437	4	8	,, IV	1,04,449	10	6
				Miscellaneous	5,354	11	8
				Total	1,92,804	12	9
				Closing balance (refunded to the Provincial Committee)	8,993	2	9
Total	2,01,797	15	6	Total	2,01,797	15	6

The receipt items are made up of subcriptions locally raised, balance of previous famines invested in Government securities, grants made by the Provincial Committee, and sale proceeds of cloth, thread, etc., manufactured under Home work system.

Object No. I.

The relief afforded under Object No. I (provision of comforts to those in receipt of subsistence rations from Government) has been mostly under the following two heads :—

	R	a.	p.
(1) Supply of clothes and blankets to inmates of poor-houses and labourers on relief work and other deserving persons at a cost of	33,239	3	2
(2) Medical comforts such as quinine, Melin's Food and arrowroot of	6,912	12	0

The severe nature of the winter of 1899-1900 and the state of nudity of labourers on relief works forced themselves on the notice of local officers who strongly represented to the Committee the necessity of making liberal contributions to the two districts under this head. When this request was made, the resources of the Committee were limited as the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Committee had till then made only one grant of ₹5,000. The Committee, however, managed to purchase 4,169 blankets for ₹3,954-4-6, but as funds began to swell, 7,728 blankets were also purchased later on for a sum of ₹10,894-13-0 thus making a total of 11,897 blankets which were distributed by the Assistant Commissioner himself and members of the Committee. Two grants aggregating ₹9,000 with 4,334 thans (cloth pieces) were made to the Beawar Committee under this object. Besides spending ₹14,849-1-6 on the purchase of blankets, ₹9,390-1-8 were placed at the disposal of the Assistant Commissioner, Ajmer, for clothing when distressing accounts of the state of nudity of labourers continued pouring in from different quarters. It was decided at the instance of the Commissioner that the reza thans (cloth pieces) manufactured by the Committee under its Home work relief should, instead of being sold, be transferred to the Assistant Commissioners of Ajmer and Beawar in equal proportions free of all cost for distribution in the shape of garments or sheets. The cloth pieces placed at the disposal of the Assistant Commissioner, Ajmer, and cloth locally purchased of the value of ₹6,015-12-3 enabled the authorities to clothe nearly 40,000 people, including males, females and children. The clothes were distributed by Messrs. Edwards and Manners-Smith and by Captain Black, I.M.S., on relief works, kitchens, poor-houses, and hospitals and by the Honorary Secretary in the town of Ajmer. Mr. Edwards took more than a personal interest in the making and distribution of clothes, and when instances of the sale of new clothing supplied to famine-striken people were brought to notice, he promptly issued instructions that new suits should be given when old clothes which were mostly rags had been brought before the Distributing Officers and burnt. The general satisfaction that the supply of new suits gave to these poor can hardly be described.

Nine boxes of Mellin's Food and four tins of arrowroot were received from the Provincial Committee, but over and above these free gifts, the Committee spent ₹2,412-12-0 on the purchase of Mellin's Food and ₹4,500 for quinine. The continuous and prolonged rainfall of 1900, though extremely favourable to agriculture, was fruitful in malaria. This autumnal fever in a severe form is not of yearly periodical occurrence in this district, and it is not unlikely that a full dry year followed by heavy rains may have caused this outbreak. All those who have had some experience of past famines tell me that fever assumes an unusually severe form when it comes in the train of famine. No little credit is due to Mr. Edwards for his anticipating this outbreak and indenting for large quantities of quinine from the Government Depôt at Madras. As soon as fever appeared steps were taken to meet it by the free distribution of quinine on an extensive scale. Large quantities of quinine were supplied in convenient powders and pills to all the affected parts and distributed among the people by every available agency, free to the poorest classes. Fever was, however, not confined to the poor but fell on all classes alike and on all with equal effect, though the severity was greatly felt by the poorer classes as their constitutions were greatly emaciated by the rigors of famine.

The class of people that were thus relieved and helped by the free distribution of clothing and blankets and quinine to protect them from cold and to get over malarial attacks of fever, are little given, as a rule, to noisy demonstrations of grief or joy, but I have been informed from various quarters that these unprecedented benevolent acts stirred their innermost hearts and they deeply appreciated what was being done for them.

Object No. II.

The second object of the fund is stated to be "provision for the maintenance of orphans." In the beginning of the famine the orphans did not, to any large extent, receive the benefit of the fund as they were all kept in the poor-houses and maintained by the State, but additional comforts, such as clothing, extra diet and medicines were, however, provided for from the charitable funds.

The expenditure under this head has been R3,234-11-7, which may be classed as under :—

	R	a.	p.
(1) Subsidies to (*a*) Dyanand Anathalaya	1,350	0	0
(*b*) Roman Catholic Orphanage . . .	1,000	0	0
(2) Orphanage maintained by the Committee from 24th November 1899 to 15th January 1901 . . .	884	11	7

The last famine being unprecedented in its severity throughout the whole of Rajputana, hundreds of waifs and strays were left to the mercies of persons who from pure motives of benevolence had taken upon themselves the onerous responsibility of saving their lives. The most prominent amongst them were the Missionaries and the Arya Samajists. Mr. Tucker with his usual care and foresight laid it down as a guiding rule that private orphanages were not to be excluded from the scope of our organization, but that reasonable aid might be given to them : provided that they were well conducted and under proper supervision, and that funds should be applied impartially in aid of all well-regulated orphanages, irrespective of the religious persuasion of their Managers. Acting on these principles, the Committee extended the benefit of the fund by making monthly grants to—

(1) The Dyanand Anathalaya,

(2) The Roman Catholic Orphanage,

when applications for aid were received from their Managers. Both these institutions continued to receive R100 monthly each, from April 1900 to July 1900, when the grant in the case of No. (1) was raised to R150 per mensem. These subsidies were continued till January 1901, and in all R2,350 were paid. Besides these monthly payments, the two orphanages participated in the free gifts of Mellin's Food. Of the two the Dyanand Anathalaya was the more fortunate as it received large gifts of clothing and blankets, for which no application was made by the Managers of the Roman Catholic Orphanage.

When all relief operations were closed in the district, and the two poor-houses at Ajmer and Kekri had as their inmates either sick people or orphans, most of whom were in very poor condition, they were handed over to the Committee on the 24th November 1900. When these two poor-houses were taken over, enquiries for the friends or relations of the orphans which had been set on foot by the district authorities were not completed till about the beginning of January 1901. On receipt of replies from the different Political Officers in Rajputana and Central India, eight orphans were sent to the Native States, 21 handed over to the Dyanand Anathalaya, one Mohamedan orphan made over to the Durgah Committee. The orphans to these two institutions were made over on their undertaking to account for each child till he or she attains the age of eighteen. If, however, any child is claimed by her or his parents or friends before attaining the age of eighteen, such child should be delivered under the orders of the district authorities. The orphanage at Ajmer was in charge of the Secretary from 24th November 1900 to 15th January 1901, and during this period it was visited once or twice by the present Assistant Commissioner, who showed great interest in the orphans then on hand.

Object No. III.

The expenditure under this head was R36,604-0-6, and it was largely utilized in relieving the very many respectable poor who had been reduced to want or destitution by the pressure of prices and the failure of the private or domestic charity from which they usually obtained assistance. This class mostly included impoverished Mohamedan *pardanashin* women who are debarred by the custom of the country from appearing in public, but who had been accustomed to support themselves or eke out their resources by needle-work, embroidery, and similar occupations. The general pressure on the community had deprived them of this source of income, while their social position, age or sex prevented them from seeking relief in poor-houses. The employment of many artizans, such as tailors, dyers, weavers had diminished, and in most cases altogether ceased. It became necessary to devise means for the support of all these distressed classes who presented numerous cases of a nature to excite pity and compassion. Their relief engaged the very careful and anxious consideration of

Mr. Tucker, to whom several schemes were suggested, but, after consultation with the Committee, he decided that the city be divided into wards, which should be in charge of one member of the Committee. These ward lists, which were prepared by native gentlemen of influence and position with due regard to the economical and honest distribution of funds, were sent to Dr. Miss Campbell of the Presbyterian Zenana Mission, who provided each *parḍanashin* lady with 18 chittacks of cotton per week to spin. They were given an anna a day for spinning 18 chittacks in seven days. This relieved high class women, who would not come out and preferred to work at home, but there were others equally needy, though low in the social order of native society, and they were given the spun thread to be turned into reels. These winders were paid one anna each for winding 18 chittacks of thread. The thread thus manufactured was handed over to weavers who made cloth (reza thans).

The spinning and winding operations were left solely in charge of Dr. Miss Campbell, as the lists carefully prepared were revised by Municipal Ward Superintendents and finally checked by Dr. Miss Campbell by house to house visitation. This three-fold check led to the elimination of a number of names which had at first crept in. The Committee thus relieved 158,067 spinners and 55,464 winders at a cost of R13,345-10-0 from October 1899 to October 1900.

When spun thread began to accumulate and reports poured in from different quarters that the pinch of famine was being felt in the city, that there were any number of females who had in the beginning declined to be brought on the work, and numerous artizans without work in the town, and that simultaneously with these reports distressing accounts of the state of nudity of labourers on relief works were brought to the notice of the Committee, the Local Committee decided to utilize all the spun thread by giving it to weavers to be woven into cloth, and relieved those who were reluctant to come publicly or to work, by grain doles, which were distributed every fortnight. The distribution of grain doles was in the charge of Ward Superintendents. By this system 7,612 persons were relieved at a cost of R4,523-2-0.

Both these systems afforded a six-fold measure of relief, (1) to the women who spun the thread and wound it, (2) to the weavers who made it into cloth, (3) to the dyers who dyed it, (4) to the tailors who made garments for distribution on relief works, (5) to labourers, and (6) to inmates of poor-houses and kitchens.

The table below will give an idea of the number of spinners, winders, weavers relieved, the quantity of cotton purchased, price of cotton purchased, the number of thans manufactured, and the mode in which they were distributed :—

Home Work.			Weaving.		Cotton.		No. of thans prepared.	Names of Distributors.
Period of Operation.	No. of Spinners.	No. of Winders.	Period.	No. of Weavers.	Quantity Mds.	Cost R		
1st October 1899 to 15th October 1900.	158,067	55,464	January to November 1900.	77,677	840	18,735	14,927	*No.* Asst. Comr., Ajmer 5,870 Do. Beawar 4,334 Dr. Campbell . . 575 Tehsildar . . 580 Dy. Magistrate, Kekri 500 Secretary, Arya Samaj 500 Manager, Bhinai . 200 President, Durgah Com. . . . 200 City . . . 456 Rev. E. A. Commr. 50 Executive Engineer . 170 Sold locally . . 1,497

Object No. IV.

The expenditure under this head was mostly spent in restoring to their original position, when acute distress had subsided, those who had lost their all in the struggle and in giving them a fresh start in life.

The expenditure under this head may be classed as under :—

	R
Purchase of bullocks	55,845
Purchase of seed	37,425
Parting doles to inmates of poor-houses, workers under Home work system, and those released prisoners who were imprisoned for offences connected with starvation	6,228
Weavers	4,647
Miscellaneous charges	304

The relief under Object No. IV is meant principally to save the peasant cultivator from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it and from sinking to the position of a day labourer.

These lists were prepared by the village officials, checked by the Tehsildar who submitted them to the Assistant Commissioner. The distribution of money for seed grain and bullocks under this object was undertaken by the Assistant Commissioner in a portion of the district himself and the other parts of the district were divided equally between the two European Famine Officers. It was so arranged that Government takkavi advances should be distributed simultaneously with charitable grants to cultivators. Dates and centres were previously fixed, and every care was taken to prevent personation. These advances were distributed by Mr. Edwards, Captain Peacock and the late Lieutenant Martin who fell a victim to famine labour. While dealing with the expenditure under Object No. IV in his district famine report the Commissioner has made certain observations at page 107, and I take the liberty to quote them below—

"As to the applications of funds distributed, enquiries have been made," "and there is reason to believe that, though in a few cases the money has been" "misapplied, in the majority of cases the money has actually been expended" "in the purchase of cattle and seed. The careful selection of recipients, and" "the necessity they were under of getting their fields ploughed or of being" "permanently ruined, made it reasonably certain that this would be the case."

A small portion of the money was spent in parting doles to persons leaving poor-houses and kitchens which will enable them to repurchase household utensils, to spinners and winders, and famine-stricken people convicted for petty offences, and released from jail, to enable them to tide over the first strangeness of finding themselves once more dependent on their own exertion for a livelihood.

I have already dealt with weavers in my remarks under Object No. III. R4,647 were actually paid to weavers as wages. The weaving department and the purchase of cotton were in charge of a Sub-Committee, consisting of the Secretary, Munshi Debi Dayal, Honorary Magistrate, and Mr. Cooverji Nowrosji, Abkari Contractor. When these weaving operations were started, some difficulties were apprehended as to the safety of thread entrusted to weavers, but in their common affliction they stood security for each other, and in some cases they got hold of some respectable neighbour or villager to stand security for them. The weavers as a body faithfully acted up to their promises, and this was no doubt an indication of their gratitude for the relief given to them out of the funds. From the very beginning they contemptuously treated all suggestions of receiving grain or money doles without work. The system of accounts suggested by the Secretary was maintained throughout, and the operations were practically supervised by the two non-official gentlemen who deserve very great credit for giving all their leisure hours for over ten months to the operations of this branch of the Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The expenditure under this head was R5,354-11-8, and this is made up of the following items :—

	R	a.	p.
(1) Postage, Stationery, Telegram, etc., charges	62	2	0
(2) Salaries of Office Clerks	460	0	0
(3) Printing charges	87	5	3
(4) Salaries of Menial Establishment	457	4	7
(5) Sundries and other Petty Items	287	15	10
(6) Rajputana Provincial Committee	4,000	0	0

The largest of all the above items of expenditure is one of ₹4,000 contributed to the Provincial Committee when the Provincial Committee was established in Rajputana. Some of the subcribers to the Local Committee at Ajmer expressed a desire that a portion of their subscriptions should be transferred to the Provincial Committee with a view to their being utilized for purposes of the Province. The Committee in order to meet their wishes contributed ₹4,000 towards the Provincial Committee. The other expenses are merely trifling when it has to be borne in mind that more than two lakhs of rupees passed through the Committee's hands. This is due to the great amount of voluntary assistance rendered by Government officials and private individuals, and there was, therefore, not much expenditure on office establishment and stationery.

Of the blessings which the Charitable Relief Fund has carried to the people of this district, it is not necessary to say much. It has fulfilled very successfully the purpose for which it was raised, and has proved the salvation of thousands. The tale of this great bounty will remain with the people as an abiding memory of the large hearted charity of English speaking public. This fund has sown the seeds of a kindlier sentiment, and of a better understanding of the purposes and intentions of Government.

REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BERAR FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND FOR THE YEAR 1899-1900.

1. The Province known as the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, or Berar, comprises six districts, Amraoti, Ellichpur and Wun in East Berar and Akola, Basim and Buldana in West Berar. They have an area of 17,718 square miles; their population according to the Census of 1891 was 2,897,040, or 163 to the square mile, and the provisional figures of the recent census give 2,752,418 as the total of population. The province consists of three distinct tracts, the hilly forest region called the Melghat in the Satpura range on the north, the wide plain stretching from west to east across the middle, and the more or less broken uplands on the south. The boundaries of Berar are on the north and north-west the Central Provinces, on the west the Khandesh District and the Hyderabad State, on the south the Hyderbad State, and on the east the districts of Chand, Wardha and Nagpur in Central Provinces. All these surrounding territories suffered from famine in 1899-1900.

2. Berar is an agricultural country. Three-fourths of its whole population are mainly supported by agriculture: 34 per cent. consists of landless field labourers, and about the same percentage is made up of cultivating occupants and tenants, many of whom are little superior to labourers. The jungle and hill tribes number more than 200,000, and are to be found chiefly in the south of the Wun District and in the Melghat Taluka of the Ellichpur District. The chief castes in Berar are Khubis, Mahars and Malis; and the chief occupations are agriculture and various kinds of working and dealing in cotton. The most valuable crop is cotton, and the most important food crop is jawari, which is the staple food of the labouring classes. These are the two principal crops: and they cover in fairly equal proportions 70 per cent. of the entire cultivated area.

3. The season of 1895-96 in Berar was, from an agricultural point of view, favourable. The cotton crop was an exceptionally heavy one and though prices of cotton were not very good, still the large outturn brought unusual prosperity to all occupants of land. The jawari crop was not more than an average one, and in the Akola District and the Melghat, where there was too little rain for the light soil, it was below the average: but on the whole up to June 1896 the condition of the people in Berar may be described as having been remarkably good.

4. The cause of the famine of 1896-97 in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts was the cessation of the rains in the early autumn of 1896. From the beginning of August 1896 until June 1897 no good rain fell in Berar. The whole province was in some degree affected, but the area in which actual famine existed was the Melghat Taluka. In the Akola District and the Malkapur Taluka of the Buldana District distress was severe. In the rest of the Buldana District and in the Basim District the distress was slight. In the Amraoti and Wun Districts and in the plain talukas of the Ellichpur District there was distress from high prices. The main feature of the whole period of distress in Berar was that the famine was one of high prices rather than of scarcity of food. The highest prices were touched in August 1897, namely, jawari $7\frac{3}{4}$ seers, wheat $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers and rice $5\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee against an average of about 21, $15\frac{1}{4}$ and 9 seers.

5. In the season of 1897-98 the rainfall amounted to 31 inches and 15 cents, or more than 8 inches below the average of the previous ten years. It was only 2 inches 17 cents above the total of the preceding famine year. This fall was far below the average, and the result was that though the kharif crops were everywhere excellent, there was not enough moisture in the soil for wheat or the rabi crops. The jawari crop was one of the finest ever known, and the general price of the grain fell to about 20 seers for the rupee.

6. The season of 1898-99 was also one of short rainfall. The average for the province was only 29·16 inches, or 7·91 inches less than the average of the preceding 10 years, 11·41 inches less than the average of the 10 years before 1896-97, and only 18 cents more than in that year of scarcity. The character of the monsoon was much the same in all districts; that is to say, it opened well and gave sufficient rain for the kharif sowings up to about the month of October, and on the whole they did well; but the soil had not absorbed enough moisture

for the rabi, and as there was no rain to speak of in October and November, the circumstances were, as in the preceding year, very unfavourable for the spring crops. The effect of four years of deficient rainfall on the water-supply became very marked; and distress caused by the scarcity of drinking water began to be felt in several parts of the province. The jawari harvest was again good; and the price fell to about 27 seers per rupee. Thus by the spring of 1899, the stock of the chief food grains had been replenished by two good harvests in succession, and were reported to be unusually large.

The intensity of the famine.

7. The famine of 1899-1900 in Berar was caused by the failure of the monsoon in the year 1899, and the consequent failure of both the autumn and the spring crops. The famine affected the whole of Berar.

8. There was unusual rain everywhere except in the Akola District during April and May. The monsoon commenced in June, and seemed to be fairly established by the end of that month: but the rainfall in June proved deficient in all districts, although it was enough for sowing purposes. In the following three months the falls were fitful and still more inadequate, the total recorded in September being only 1·64 inches against the decennial average of 8·14 inches. The total fall up to the end of September was only 11 inches and two cents. About the 20th September the rain stopped; and from October to the close of the year there was practically no rain anywhere in Berar. The general results were that there was a complete failure of the autumn crops in all districts except Wun, that little or no spring crops were sown, and that most of what was sown altogether failed.

9. It has been mentioned that a large proportion of the population of Berar consists of the landless day labourer, and it is well known that such classes are most directly and quickly affected by high prices of food. The price of jawari rose rapidly in October and November 1899 to 10 and 9½ seers per rupee. Early in January the rates varied from 12 seers per rupee in Wun to 9 seers in Buldana. The stocks in the country, notwithstanding considerable exports, were large; and heavy imports of Bengal and Burma rice steadied prices, especially along the line of railway. The highest point touched by the district price of jawari was 7 seers in Buldana during the month of June and July 1900 and this rate was exceeded in 1897.

10. The famine was prolonged by the lateness of the monsoon of 1900. It was not until the close of the first week in July that the rains really set in, and agricultural operations were fully started. The famine was at its worst in July. People who had been struggling to maintain themselves were forced then by the exhaustion of their resources and the fear of another failure of crops to seek relief, and many came in an enfeebled condition. The sowings being late, the demand for labour to weed the fields was late also; and the demand itself was diminished because landholders and their families in order to save expense, undertook as much work as possible themselves. Meanwhile prices continued very high.

The economic condition of the people.

11. It is hardly possible to do adequate justice to such a complex question as the economic condition of the people within the limits assignable to it in a report on Famine Charitable relief. We have contented ourselves with merely supplying indications of the existing forces at work and the result they have produced. Under British rule cultivation went up by leaps and bounds. To take one Taluka, Malkapur. In 1853 there were only 1,63,438 acres in cultivation; 12 years later there were as many as 3,56,278. The demand for Indian cotton which the American war brought about afforded an impetus to the development of the agricultural industry which positively "electrified" Berar.

Necessity for action.

12. Depending thus on land with their staying power brought to a low point by their indebtedness which became accentuated and enhanced by the famine of 1897, the people were in the September of 1899 brought face to face with a calamity such as they had never seen before. Unable to obtain work and food, men, otherwise law-abiding and quiet, resorted to theft and robbery to eke out a precarious livelihood. The starting of relief works and the administration of gratuitous relief, state and private, became necessary. Government, however, grappled with the situation without hesitation in a broad-minded and liberal spirit, and private citizens also rose to the occasion. Everywhere the well-to-do classes responded as a rule generously to the call, which was made on them and cheap grain shops, poor-houses and kitchens were started. More organized efforts were

however necessary and after the Central Committee of the Famine Charitable Relief Fund was started at Calcutta under the auspices of His Excellency the Vice roya branch of it was opened here.

Organization of Provincial and District Committees.

13. A public meeting attended by gentlemen from different parts of the province was held at Amraoti on the 24th March 1900, under the presidency of Mr. J. A. Crawford, Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and an influential Provincial Committee with a small Executive Committee was organized. The Deputy Commissioners were requested to form District Committees and Sub-Committees. Except in the Amraoti District, distinct committees, organized, for carrying out the objects of this "fund," were called into existence. In the Amraoti District the Deputy Commissioner utilised the District and Taluka Boards and the Municipalities for this purpose. In Appendix A we give the names of the members constituting the Provincial Executive Committee and the District Committees.

14. The general Committee did not meet except once to transact the business of the Fund. That power was delegated to the Executive Committee and the opinions of the members of that body were frequently ascertained by circulating papers besides formal meetings. Following the precedent of the Committee of 1897 the Executive Committee very properly came to the conclusion that the most satisfactory method of carrying out the purposes of the fund was to leave the fullest discretion to the District and Sub-Committees. Their local knowledge and presence on the spot gave them peculiar facilities for determining the most suitable methods of relief and the proper recipients; and these were advantages too valuable to be sacrificed to any desire to secure uniformity and for that purpose to centralise all power in the Provincial Committee.

Agency employed.

15. There was some difference in the agencies employed in the administration of relief in the different districts and in different portions of the same district. In tracts like the Melghat the agency was purely official because excepting the Missionaries there were hardly any competent unofficial persons available for the work there. In the plain talukas of the Ellichpur District the Circle Committees, consisting both of officials and non-officials, were utilised for making the lists of persons within their circle who deserved the grant of relief. The actual distribution of the grants, however, was entrusted for the most part to Government officers. In the Basim and Buldana Districts, so far as can be seen from the District reports, very little of the distribution work was entrusted to any one except officers of Government. In the Akola District while in regard to some places and some matters valuable co-operation and assistance both in the selection of deserving persons and in the actual distribution of relief to them was sought for and given by non-officials, in yet other matters it was solely Government agency which was employed. Judging from the experience of towns like Akola and Amraoti and the Circle Committees of the Ellichpur District it appears that more active assistance from non-official persons might have been taken with advantage in administering all modes of charitable relief. Indeed in some matters as the Akola District Report would show, it is only by a liberal and full utilisation of the respectable men of the people that the object of the fund can be carried out. It is physically impossible for a Deputy Commissioner and his assistants including therein the Tahsildars to do everything themselves. They can only guide and control. Where non-official aid was not sought complete dependence had to be placed on the village officials and the Munsarims.

Subscriptions raised by the Provincial and District Committees.

16. The amount of subscription raised in the province was R1,21,929-12-11 contributed thus:—

	Amount.		
	R	*a.*	*p.*
Amraoti	46,365	13	9
Akola	35,479	11	0
Ellichpur	4,328	2	0
Melghat	100	0	0
Buldana	18,231	14	11
Basim	6,445	1	6
Wun	10,979	1	9
TOTAL	1,21,929	12	11

17. Considering the severity of the distress the amount of R1,21,929-12-11 contributed by the people of the province may be regarded as substantial. It

is further necessary and just to bear in mind that this one lac represents only a portion of the help given to the suffering poor. A very large amount was spent in individual charity and doles, both before and after the starting of the fund and numerous grain shops and poor-houses were carried on and maintained from local contributions of which there is no record in this report. The amount received by the Provincial Committee includes the sum of R1,232-12-3 received from Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

18. It is not possible to include in this report the names of all the persons who have subscribed to this fund. Some of the subscriptions were ear-marked and in regard to them the wishes of the donors were followed.

Grant from the Central Committee at Calcutta.

19. The Central Committee at Calcutta made a very liberal grant of R7, 10,000 to Berar. The Berar Committee had thus a total amount of R8,31,929-12-11 at its disposal. The amounts locally raised were (except in the case of Amraoti District subscriptions) applied strictly within the district. In 1897 the Provincial collections were R87,186-5-10 and the grant from the Central Committee was R1,10,000 making in all R1,97,186-5-10 available for expenditure on charitable relief in Berar.

District allotments.

20. The allotments made to the different Districts were as follows:—

Name of District.	Received from the Provincial Committee.	Local subscription.
	R a. p.	R a. p.
Amraoti	1,10,035 12 7	46,365 13 9
Akola	1,83,000 0 0	35,479 11 0
Ellichpur and Melghat	1,31,100 0 0 ...	4,328 2 0 100 0 0
Buldana	1,43,000 0 0	18,231 14 11
Basim	1,53,500 0 0	6,445 1 6
Wun	12,000 0 0	10,979 1 9
TOTAL	7,32,635 12 7	1,21,929 12 11

21. In the statements of "Receipts" from the District Committees there are the following items shown as miscellaneous or other receipts:—

	R a. p.
Akola	1,373 6 0
Ellichpur	35 4 0
Melghat	0 8 0
Buldana	449 12 6
Basim	26 4 2
Wun	1,517 1 6

Except one large item of R1,021-10-9 in the Akola District Statement and small items in the others showing realizations by sale of gunny bags, etc., the other items are merely refunds or re-sale of balance of seed grains or return of loans, etc., which cannot properly be considered as the income of those Committees. The sum of R1,021-10-9 in the Akola accounts, however, represents a real income, being the interest earned by the Committee on the moneys in its hands. Instead of putting its receipts in the Bombay Bank it opened a current account carrying interest at 6 annas per cent. per mensem with two local bankers and earned a large amount as interest.

22. The following table shows the amounts spent on each of the four objects of the fund up to the dates specified below each District :—

Name of District.	Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Amraoti up to 31st January	9,878 3 10	...	21,549 1 7	66,572 1 7
Akola up to 31st March	19,861 8 10	3 8 6	2,480 0 0	1,58,575 11 8
Ellichpur up to 31st December	12,609 11 7	...	...	47,875 10 10
Melghat up to 28th February	8,189 7 0	4,987 0 0	...	59,087 7 9
Buldana up to 31st December	24,510 15 9	92 7 0	493 5 9	1,16,846 2 4
Basim up to 31st December	36,767 15 4	95 8 7	5,308 0 0	1,11,109 0 1
Wun up to 31st December	8,740 4 1	...	80 0 0	8,532 7 6
TOTAL	1,20,558 2 5	5,178 8 1	29,910 7 4	5,68,598 9 9

23. It will be seen from the above table that out of ₹7,24,245-11-7, spent on the four objects the largest expenditure ₹5,68,598-9-9 is on Object IV and represents 78·5 per cent. of the total outlay ; the expenditure which comes next is that on Object I which is ₹1,20,558-2-5, or 16·6 per cent., that on Object III comes third and is ₹29,910-7-4 or 4·2 per cent. No expenditure worth mentioning has been incurred on Object II.

Object I.

24. The main heads under which the relief allowable under Object I falls are two :—one, extra food or medical comforts for the aged, the young or the infirm from among persons maintained by Government or from public funds. The other, clothing for those receiving public relief. The amount spent on the first of these heads is exceedingly small for Akola, Amraoti and Ellichpur (exclusive of Melghat). The only considerable item in this sub-head in those three districts being that of ₹1,000 granted to the Amraoti Town Municipality. The explanation of this seems to be this. When the resources of the State and of private individuals had to be stretched to almost their utmost to maintain body and soul together, extra food even for the weak and the infirm had to be accorded a very secondary place. So far as medicines were concerned each relief camp had its hospital where the sick got such relief as the exceptional circumstances of the year permitted. From some correspondence which this Provincial Committee had with the Amraoti Town Municipality it appears that within the limits of the Municipal town at least some relief in this form was given from Municipal funds. In the Melghat where excepting the State and the Charitable Relief Fund, the only other help came from the Missionaries the amount spent on medicines and hospital comforts was ₹870. In Basim the expenditure on this sub-head was ₹3,823-4-11 and in Wun ₹2,835-5-3, ₹500 were sent to the Karku Mission through the Deputy Commissioner, Ellichpur, for the relief of lepers. The following table will show how the relief afforded under this sub-head was administered in the different districts and how many individuals were reached by it :—

Name of District.	No. of persons relieved.	Total cost.	Cost per head.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Amraoti	3,518	1,050 3 6	0 2 3
Akola	...	...	...
Ellichpur	No information	578 15 3	...
Melghat	Do.	870 0 0	...
Buldana	7,546	599 10 0	0 1 3
Basim	7,508	3,823 4 11	0 8 1
Wun	37,349	2,835 5 3	0 1 3

25. The outlay in gifts of clothes comes to ₹1,11,183-10-11 and constitutes 15·3 per cent. of the total expenditure. When it is remembered that for a considerable time some five lakhs of persons had to be maintained at the cost of Government, this outlay on clothes would hardly appear too large. In the relief camps, the poor-houses and the kitchens vast numbers had not even sufficient rags to cover their persons. Next to food the want that cried out most urgently was cover for the body. The choice of clothes purchased was guided by the consideration of durability. Strong thick *dhotis* for men, durable *saris* or *gulalis* for women, and coarse country blankets for the old and the infirm constituted the articles distributed. The blankets given were for some time woollen ones. But later on gunny ones were given in their place with the object of affording relief to larger numbers.

26. Some of the reports refer to the special care that was taken in their Districts to obtain, as far as possible, the articles intended for distribution from manufacturers of the District or of the Province. Out of ₹12,030-8-4 worth of cloth purchased by the Ellichpur District Committee, cloth worth ₹9,034 was purchased from the weavers of Ellichpur and Anjangaon. The Wun Committee purchased cloth worth ₹650 from the weavers of the Ellichpur District through the Deputy Commissioner and of ₹1,578-13-0 from the Kampti weavers through the local Committee. In the other Districts also preference was given to local or provincial manufactures. This afforded employment to the weavers in the Province who had suffered greatly from the famine. The District reports show the extreme care with which the difficult work of selecting fit objects was performed by the officers entrusted with it. The following table will give an idea of the extent of the relief afforded in this form :—

Name of District.	No. of persons relieved.	Total cost.	Cost per head.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Amraoti . . .	12,961	8,828 0 4	0 11 2
Akola . . .	27,518	19,861 8 10	0 11 6
Ellichpur . . .	...	12,030 8 4	...
Melghat . . .	...	7,319 7 0	...
Buldana . . .	15,813	23,911 5 9	1 8 2
Basim . . .	69,905	32,944 10 5	0 7 6
Wun . . .	5,887	5,904 14 10	1 0 0

27. In addition to what was distributed after purchase, there were two bales of cloth containing 387 pieces of different kinds received by this Committee from the Central Committee which were distributed as follows :—

Amraoti	127
Akola	91
Ellichpur	59
Basim	110
Buldana	...
Wun	...

These pieces were utilised by the different Committees in different ways. The Akola Committee got made 257 articles of dress of different kinds out of pieces sent to them and those were then distributed among the poor. Some private gentlemen in the Buldana District distributed clothes to some of the inmates of poor-houses in that District. Missionary societies also have spent considerable sums on this as on other forms of relief all through the Province.

28. This Committee also received from Calcutta 96 tins of sterilized milk, 18 ounces of quinine and 100lb of arrowroot. These were distributed among the District Committees and poor-houses. In some Districts the milk tins were utilised, and it is stated that not only children but grown up persons also liked them and used them.

Object II.

29. Except in the Melghat practically no money from out of this Committee's fund has been applied to this object. So long as the Government relief works and the poor-houses and kitchens were open no expenditure for the maintenance of orphans was necessary to be incurred out of the Charitable Relief Fund. Its necessity arose only after the close of Government relief. The number of children whose parents were either dead or not to be found was considerable, and a large amount of capital more than could have been spared from the money available to the Berar Committee was necessary to yield the income required for their proper maintenance till they attained majority. When first enquiries on this subject were addressed by the Provincial Committee, the District Committees asked for grants more or less large. The Akola Committee had thought the matter out in all its bearings and had perceived that it would be necessary to provide not only residence, food and clothing to these children, but that some occupation would have to be found for them and that they would have to be educated accordingly. They calculated that an amount of ₹50,000 would be required for achieving these objects properly for the 700 orphan children who were on the hands of the authorities of that District then. They had been managing their funds in view of this contingency and had laid by ₹20,000 to meet it and asked for a further grant of ₹30,000. The Akola Municipal Committee and other leading gentlemen of the place were willing to undertake the onerous responsibility of managing such an institution. But the amount asked for was beyond the resources of this Committee to grant, and it became necessary to point out this fact to the Akola Committee. A grant of ₹5,000 was sanctioned for Akola and suitable ones for Buldana, Basim and Melghat. In the meantime the District Officers were, under orders from the Commissioner, making efforts to get the relations of orphans or the leading and well-to-do people of their villages to take care of them. The missing parents also turned up in the case of many of the children. Thus most of the children for whom provision would have been required to be made either went back to their parents or were taken up by their relations or villagers. There remained a residuum who were taken up by different missionary societies. And it has, therefore, come about that this Committee is not now called upon to make any provision for the maintenance and upbringing of orphans. Thus in Buldana when the orphanage was started in the beginning of December 1900, there were 34 orphans on hand to be maintained. But in about six weeks' time 26 of these were either taken away by their parents or were given over to their relations. There were only 8 left who were handed over to Doctor Mowat of Jalna and the orphanage closed. The same thing happened in the Basim District. In Amraoti, Wun, and in the plain talukas of the Ellichpur District no expenditure was at all incurred on Object II out of this Fund. In the Melghat, however, there are orphans yet left, and at the instance of the Conservator of Forests, Berar, this Committee propose reserving a sum of ₹4,000 for their maintenance.

Object III.

30. The following table gives the outlay on this object from the allotments made out of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

Name of District.	No. of persons relieved.	Total cost.			Cost per head.			
		₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.	
Amraoti . . .	10,517	21,549	1	7	2	0	9	
Akola . . .	15,540	2,480	0	0	0	2	6	
Ellichpur . . .	...				...			
Melghat . . .	...				...			
Buldana . . .	1,120	493	5	9	0	7	0	
Basim . . .	1,176	5,308	0	0	4	8	2	
Wun . . .	27	80	0	0	2	1	5	
TOTAL .	28,380	29,910	7	4	...			

31. This table conveys, however, a most inadequate idea of the relief administered under this head, not only independently of the members constituting the District and Taluka Committees, but more or less directly by these Committees themselves. Thus in the Akola District while only ₹2,480 were spent from the money allotted from out of this Fund, the local Committees really applied ₹1,06,118-10-0 (or forty-two times as much) in affording succour to distressed persons. This additional amount was raised by various forms of subscriptions, some of which partook of the nature of voluntary taxation. One form of relief was the grant of grain to *pardanashin* women and other respectable persons who were in distressed circumstances, but whose position prevented them from seeking assistance in the public relief camps. The Akola factory owners and managers headed by Rao Saheb Deorao Vinayak supported 295 persons in this way for 12 months. A contributory grant of ₹2,000 to their Fund was made by the District Committee. Another form was the sale of grain at cheap rate. Similar relief was administered in other Districts either from the allotments made from the Charitable Relief Fund or from subscriptions in cash or kind raised locally for that purpose. The total number of persons who received assistance under Object III from the District Committees was 28,380, and the total cost of the relief was ₹29,910-7-4. In the Melghat ₹691 were applied to meet loss caused by sale of grain at cheap rates. This expenditure is shown under Object IV. If the amount is shown under Object III, as it should be, the total expenditure on that object would come to ₹30,681-7-4. This number and this amount do not, as we have stated above, include what was done independently of the District Committees.

32. Most of the relief incurred under Object III was for supplying help to respectable persons in indigent circumstances to maintain themselves. In the Amraoti and Buldana Districts ₹1,003 and ₹477-11-9, respectively, were expressly given to some members of this class to obtain clothes.

Object IV.

33. Next to saving the life of the famine-stricken by giving them subsistence during the period of distress, comes the duty of affording succour to those members of the community upon whose labours depends its continuance, but who having lost their all or nearly all in the struggle are unable to effectively carry on their calling unless they receive proper assistance. The restoration to his former position of the broken down agriculturist or weaver benefits not only the individual concerned, but the whole District and Province. Hence it is that the expenditure of ₹5,69,586-4-11 directed towards accomplishing this result constitutes the bulk of the amount spent from the Charitable Relief Fund and represents so much as 78·6 per cent. of it. Whatever difference of views might be seen among the several Committees in regard to other objects, so far as this object went all were agreed in holding it to be the most important to which their funds could be applied and as such entitled to have the largest share. Being an agricultural Province, with over eighty per cent. of the population depending directly or indirectly on land, it is only natural that the bulk of the money spent on this object should have been given to agriculturists. The help given was in the following shapes:—

(*a*) Gifts in kind of seed grain or of money to purchase the same.
(*b*) Gifts of plough cattle or of money to purchase them.
(*c*) Money grants for fodder for cattle.
(*d*) Money grants for weeding expenses and other necessary operations for growing harvest.
(*e*) Grants in money or in kind for the maintenance of cultivators.

34. The subjoined table will show the amount spent on each of these five purposes and the extent of the benefits conferred thereby.

Name of District.	Purchase of plough cattle.		For seeds.		Fodder.		Weeding.		Maintenance.		Help to Artisans.		Area of land covered by the relief.		Total of persons relieved.	Total cost.
	Persons relieved.	Amount.	Persons relieved.	Amount.	Persons relieved.	Amount.	Persons relieved.	Amount.	Persons relieved.	Amount.	Persons relieved.	Amount.	Acres.	Percentage to occupied area.		
		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.		₹ a. p.				₹ a. p.
Amraoti .	...	Information not available.											72,357	...	A 4,216	66,572 1 7
Akola .	...	Do. do.											222,705	...	16,858	B 1,57,892 9 8
Ellichpur .	D 68	6,695 8 0	891	5,558 0 7	D 3	1,366 1 9	1,799	24,569 8 6	D 101	5,776 8 0	42	210 0 0	17,143	...	2,898	44,175 10 10+ 3,700: cost of jawari seed distributed in kind ₹47,875-10-10.
Melghat .	*	31,702 0 0	†	22,869 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	3,825 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	‡.
Buldana .	2,719	40,773 2 0	11,622	60,407 7 10	...	...	1,980	13,988 8 6	...	...	206	1,677 0 0	219,193	...	16,321	1,16,846 2 4
Basim .	...	30,778 8 0	...	44,923 9 2	...	11,391 0 0	...	5,390 0 0	...	18,625 4 11	...	...	...	...	11,560	1,11,109 0 1
Wun .	1,284	C 7,574 11 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,155	957 12 0	...	...	24,953	...	2,439	8,532 7 6
Total .	4,071	1,17,523 13 6	12,513	1,33,758 1 7	3	12,757 1 9	3,779	43,948 1 0	1,256	29,184 8 11	248	1,887 0 0	5,56,351	...	54,292	5,08,828 0 0

* The number of persons to whom cattle were given is not stated, but the report shows that 1,885 heads of cattle were issued for 1,573 ploughs and a sum of ₹813 was given for the hire of bullocks.

† The number of persons is not given, but the report states that 4,638 "ploughs" were assisted with seed grain on certain fixed proportion at a total cost of ₹22,869.

‡ In addition to this, ₹4,987 were issued in loans, out of which ₹1,126 have been turned into gratuitous payments and ₹3,861, which are expected to be recovered, are to be applied under Object II for support of the orphans handed over to the two Missionary Societies working in the Taluka.

A.—Full information regarding persons relieved is not given by the District Forest Officer.

B.—This figure does not include ₹683-2-0 granted as passage money to famine-stricken persons to return to their homes.

C.—Includes fodder, implements of husbandry and cash to purchase them.

D.—This figure seems wrong and explanation is called for and will be sent later.

35. Excluding Melghat 55,292 persons are shown as having received relief under this head. The figure cannot be considered as very accurate. In some Districts the reports show that no person receiving more than one relief was returned oftener than once. It is difficult to say if the same principle was kept in view in the other Districts.

36. The process of selecting the recipients of this form of relief was generally this. The village officials, the Patels and Patwaris prepared the lists of the cultivators in their villages who most needed relief. The lists so prepared were checked and verified by the Munsarims or Circle Inspectors. The Naib Tahsildars determined on enquiries the amount of relief which might be given in each individual case. The Tahsildars and the Extra Assistant and Assistant Commissioners generally directed, supervised and controlled the selection of applicants. Evidently every endeavour was made to prevent dishonesty and abuse. In the Melghat both the Government relief and the relief from the charitable fund were worked side by side by the officers of the Forest Department, the Deputy Conservator, Mr. Williamson, his assistants and rangers: and, as in 1897, the work was done with remarkable thoroughness and care. The forethought shown by them in collecting and keeping the cattle and seed required for distribution deserves special mention. The people of the Melghat, who are entirely wanting in prudence and foresight could not be trusted with grants of money; and the cattle and seed required for them had to be given in kind. Long before the time for distribution arrived measures were taken for keeping the stock ready and securing it in the most economical manner possible. Similarly after the setting in of the rains when the cultivators had to be maintained they knew that it would be they who would have to supply the people with food to eat and they made provision for that and either sold it at cheap rates to such as could afford to pay or gave free grants to the destitute. In the other parts of the province the grants for purchase of cattle were mostly in cash. Assistance for seed grains was either in kind or in cash. The recipients preferred payment in cash as it enabled them to make their own selection and gave them an opportunity to purchase in the cheapest market. In the Akola District the Committee first tried the system of making gifts on account of seed grain in kind. But there was in some quarters doubt about the suitability of what was regarded as foreign seed to the local soils; and after the distribution of the quantity first purchased, the further gifts were made in cash.

37. In your letter No. 522, dated the 29th May 1900, you drew attention to page 521, Volume II of the Report of the Central Committee, Calcutta, of 1897, where a description is given of the plan carried out in the District of Hissar in the Punjab of preparing lists of gifts for seed and cattle along with the Government Tuccavi lists. You recommended the adoption of that system in Berar. That letter was laid before the Executive Committee, but it was received late. Deputy Commissioners of Districts were consulted on the subject and nearly all were opposed to the adoption of the plan in detail in Berar. Parts of the plan were, however, acted upon.

38. The reports agree in stating that the grants made were all applied to the purposes for which they had been given. The Taluka Officer of Mehkar and Officiating Extra Assistant Commissioner Mr. Narayansing Babhutsing bears important testimony in regard to a matter on which some misgivings were at one time entertained, namely, as to whether the people had lost their self-respect. The following extract from his report given in the Buldana District Report is worth reproduction here.

"When they (the poor cultivators) heard of the distribution of money out of the fund lots of them being under the impression that money was to be advanced to them as a loan at a moderate rate of interest, flocked to the place to profit by it, but as soon as the real nature of the fund was explained to them and they were given to understand that the money was to be given only in charity many of them showed their unwillingness to be fed on charity and withdrew at once and the relief thus offered was accepted by those alone who had no other alternative." This is the peculiar trait of character found in almost all Indian cultivators.

39. The intensity of the famine, the almost entire destruction in the greater part of the province not only of food crops but of fodder also, and the utter prostration of the cultivating classes and agricultural labourers, rendered necessary the considerable grants that had to be made for the maintenance of the field

workers and their cattle. The officers and the committees entrusted with the task of selection and distribution did it not only with judgment and impartiality but with a sympathy and broad-mindedness that merit the fullest acknowledgment.

40. Direct assistance to artisans and petty traders such as that which was given to cultivators was given in very few cases. In the Buldana District after the close of the famine R1,677 were spent in assisting 206 families of weavers of Deulgaon Raja to obtain the material, required for their trade. There was a small grant similarly made in the Ellichpur District. Help in another form was, however, given in all the districts by many of the articles of clothes required for distribution being bought from local weavers or petty traders.

41. It was hoped that after the gathering of the harvest of 1900 there would be no further necessity of giving charitable aid in Berar from the famine fund. The late rains of 1900, however, were unsatisfactory; and there was considerable failure of crops, particularly in the south of the Basim and Buldana Districts and in the Melghat. Grants, aggregating R25,000, have been made to Basim since January last. The Buldana District has in hand R 18,000, and a further grant of R10,000 has been made to them. A similar grant of R11,500 has been made to the Melghat. A sum of R4,000 has been reserved for the relief of orphans in the Melghat, of which R2,900 have been remitted.

42. Charitable Relief was closed in the districts of Amraoti, Akola, Wun, and the plain talukas of the Ellichpur District by the beginning of December 1900.

In the Basim and Buldana Districts and in the Melghat relief under Object IV will be given to destitute cultivators who have no means of procuring seed or bullocks.

This Committee, however, will be able to meet their additional demands from the balance in their hand which is R1,263-5-6.

A sum of R30,000 was refunded by this Committee to Calcutta and has been acknowledged.

43. As directed by the Central Committee, Calcutta, the accounts of the District Committees have been or are being audited by the following officers:—

Amraoti	. .	Mr. B. B. Sule, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Ellichpur	. .	„ G. W. Bapat, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Akola	. . .	„ E. J. Sanjana, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Basim	. .	„ T. G. Paranjpe, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Buldana	. .	„ G. S. Naidu, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Wun	. . .	„ E. Marshall, Extra Assistant Commissioner.

The accounts of the Provincial Committee have been audited by the Extra Assistant Commissioner and Treasury Officer at Amraoti up to 10th November 1900 and will be checked up to date in a few days.

The Akola accounts have been well kept and are fully supported by vouchers. The Ellichpur accounts have been fairly well kept but they do not show the full number of persons relieved and in a few cases vouchers are wanting. The District Committee has been asked to supply them.

The Buldana accounts show in some cases questionable expenditure and incorrect entries. Detailed explanation regarding them has been called for. The Basim and Wun accounts are also well kept.

We are urging the Deputy Commissioner, Amraoti, to expedite the completion of the audit; and as soon as the Amraoti audit report is received a summary of all the audit reports will be forwarded to you. There is no reason to apprehend that the general condition of the accounts is anything but satisfactory.

44. It is not possible to include in this report the names of those who generously opened their purses or devoted their energies to alleviate the miseries and sufferings of their fellow-creatures and fellow-subjects and countrymen. As we have stated more than once, the contributions to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund do not represent the only or even the bulk of the help given to the famine-stricken whether by the people of the Province or those outside it. Some idea of the extent of indigenous charity may be formed from the fact that in the Akola District, one of the most seriously affected tracts in the whole province, more than a lakh were spent in supplying cheap grain to persons in indigent circumstances.

The Marwadi Sahukars and other money-lenders who generally show no consideration to their debtors, were among the most liberal contributors to the Fund.

The calamities of famine and plague have during the last few years brought untold miseries on the people of India. In the midst of the woes and sufferings of this period of tribulation however there is one matter in regard to which there is cause for satisfaction. A better and a more cordial understanding, greater trust and confidence have been established between the Government and the people, the rulers and the ruled. The stupendous efforts made by the Government to save the lives of the people, the untiring and self-effacing devotion shown by the officers of Government as a class and by so many Englishmen and women have universally evoked among the people of India feelings of gratitude, respect and admiration for the Government and the British nation. On the other hand the Government and its officers must have been satisfied from recent events of the law-abiding and loyal character of the people. There are few more sensible to kindness than the people of India and the experience of every one who by the intimate contact which springs up in times of trials acquired true knowledge of them will bear testimony to the genuineness of the fervent gratitude they feel towards those who have done so much for them. On their behalf we beg to tender our deep and grateful acknowledgments to Government, their officers and the British nation. To the Central Committee at Calcutta and to the members of the District and Sub-Committees and to the gentlemen who have generously subscribed to this Fund we have similarly to offer our warmest thanks.

45. Of those gentlemen who served on the District or Sub-Committees or paid liberally to the Fund we would suggest the following who deserve special recognition. :—

Mr. Ganesh Nagesh, Pleader, Ellichpur, who was Honorary Secretary to the District Committee both in 1897 and 1900 and who did good work as such.

The Wun District Report recommends the following :—

Messrs. MacMurray and Crocket of the Free Methodist Mission, Wun.
Mr. Hiralal Ramgopal Sahukar of Yeotmal.
„ Ramaya Wd. Bhomaya Komti of Pandharkuwada.
„ Punjaji Sonar of Digras.

The Buldana District Report mentions the following :—

Captain D. O. Morris, Assistant Commissioner.
„ T. C. Plowden, Assistant Commissioner.
Mr. S. H. King, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
„ Narayansing Babhutsing, Officiating Extra Assistant Commissioner. This gentleman did also excellent service during the famine of 1896-97 as Tahsildar of Amraoti.

The Akola District Report notices the following :—

Messrs. R. N. Deshpande, Extra Assistant Commissioner and K. G. Damle, Honorary Secretaries to the District Committee, Akola.
Mr. V. M. Mahajani.
„ Jaikrishna Bagaji.
„ Vithuji Narayan.
„ D. G. Patwardhan.
„ N. K. Date.
„ A. Currie, Assistant Commissioner.
Raja Indarkaran Bahadur.
Rao Bahadur Deoras Jaikrishna, Retired Extra Assistant Commissioner.
Mr. E. J. Sanjana, Extra Assistant Commissioner.
„ Laxman Gopal, Tahsildar.
„ Waman Ganesh, Tahsildar.
„ Khushalrao Ganpatrao.

We would add Mr. V. N. Dandekar, Extra Assistant Commissioner and Vice-President, Akola District Committee.

The Basim District Report mentions the following :—

Captain Haig, the late Assistant Commissioner.
Rao Bahadur B. K. Joshi, Assistant Commissioner
Messrs. Sher Mahomad Khan and Shek Munir, Tahsildars.
Mr. Yeshwant Waman Dighe, Honorary Secretary to the District Committee, Basim, both in 1897 and 1900.

The Conservator of Forests in his report on the administration of the charitable reliefi n the Melghat notices the following gentlemen :—

Mr. R. M. Williamson, Deputy Conservator of Forests.
„ S. L. Kenny, Deputy Conservator of Forests.

Mr. Peake, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests.

Messrs. Pandurang Narayan, Narsingrao and Narhar Vinayak, Rangers and Deputy Rangers, Bhonaji Papana, Mahabirsing and Ganesh Dhondu.

BANDHUJI JANARDAN, *for self*

and

Rao Bahadur R. N. MUDHOLKUR,

Honorary Secretaries.

APPENDIX A.

MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE, FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, BERAR.

President.

J. A. CRAWFORD, ESQ., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, HYDERABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS.

Members.

Mr. R. D. Hare.
Major R. P. Colomb.
Mr. H. Godwin Austin.
„ Rustamji Fardunji.
„ F. W. A. Prideaux.
„ R. A. Simpson.
Captain W. Haig.
„ D. O. Morris.
„ R. P. Horsbrugh.
Mr. R. Galloway.
„ Peebles.
„ Ganeshdas Kundanmal.
„ Chandrabhan Raoji.
„ Rampratap Khajulal.
„ G. S. Khaperde.
R. B. R. N. Mudholkur.
R. B. Bandhuji Janardan.
Mr. Sayed Moinoddenkhan.
„ Balkrishna Balwant Sule.
„ A. D. Chindy.
„ Raghunath Balkrishna Talwalker.
„ Shriram Saligram.
„ Jairamdas Ramchandra.
„ Monjiram Baldeo.
„ Jamnadas Potdar.
„ Hukamchand Bacharaj.
„ Jodharaj Shrawgi.
„ Jaferji Haftulla.
„ Moro Vishnanath Joshi.
„ Shrikrishna Bapu *alias* Nana Chimote.
„ Ramsuk Puranmal.
„ Khanu Musa.
„ Ganesh Nagesh.
„ Gulabchand Marwadi.
„ Pandurang Govind.
„ Sheonarayen Rambilas.
„ Manak Bansi.
„ Sheolal Motilal.
„ Kunjilal Acharaj.
Mr. Balabhadas Shrikisondas.
„ Khushal Singh Budhu Sing.
„ Laxman Raoji.
„ Shanker Suryabhan.
„ Govind Anant.
„ Hiralal Ramgopal.
„ Nathmal Padamsi.
„ Magniram Ramlal.
„ Anandrao Bapuji.
„ Birdechand Budhaji
„ Bhagwant Atwaram.
„ Sheonarayen Chaturbhuja.
„ Sheonath Chowthmal.
„ Laxmanji Jiwaji.
Raja Kashirao Shankerrao.
Messrs. Mulji Jetha.
Revd. A. Muller.
Mr. Gangabeson Tansukrao.
„ Waman Renko.
Shrisawasthan Balasaheb Basim.
Mr. Vishnu Balkrishna.
Raosaheb Deorao Vinayek.
Mr. Bomanji, R. D.
„ Puranlal Shamlal.
R. B. D. V. Bhagwat.
Khan Bahadur, Nawab Sallamulla Khan.
Mr. Bhagwantrao.
„ Mahadeo Rao.
„ Pragji Liladher.
„ Anandrao Deshmukh.
„ Motiram Harjasrao.
„ Lalchand Hukamchand.
„ Narayenrao Yeshwantrao.
„ Ramgir Mahant.
„ Biharilal Bagde.
„ Ladhuram Bodhulal.
„ Fakir Rao Naik.
„ Shriram Marwari of Wun.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, BERAR.

The Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts.
The Deputy Commissioner, Amraoti.
The Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners at Amraoti.
R. B. Raugnath N. Mudholkur.
Mr. Ganesh Shrikrishna Khaperde.
„ Moro Vishwanath Joshi.
„ Raghunath B. Talwalkers.

Secretaries.

R. B. Bandhuji Janardan.
R. B. Raugnath N. Mudholkur.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, ELLICHPUR DISTRICT.

R. D. Hare, Esq.
Captain F. R. Manduit.
Munshi Azizuddin.
Mr. Ganesh Bapuji.
„ Azizuddin.
„ Ganesh Nagesh.
Mr. Bapurao M. Pendse.
„ Vithalrao Kaliker.
„ Bhagwantrao Shankerrao.
The Missionary in charge of the Kurku Mission Paratwada.
Mr. Syed Amjad Husain.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, ELLICHPUR DISTRICT—*continued.*

Mr. Ahamed Alli, Spl. Magt., Chandur.
„ Vyankatrao Hanmantrao.
„ Purushotamrao Bhagwantrao.
„ Narharrao Bhagwantrao.
„ Vithalrao Panjarker.
„ Narayen Ramchandfa Gadhiker.
„ Khushal Narayen Panjarker.
„ Tukaram Deshmukh.
„ Balaji Sadasheo.
„ Udebhan of Dahigaon.
„ Rajaram Vithoba.
„ Ryasat Ali Jahagirdar.
„ Narayendas of Ellichpur.
„ Sadasheo Govind Damle.
Mr. Maruti Patil.
„ Mahadeo Lalaji.
„ Motiram Mansaram.
„ Munjilal Hukamchand.
„ Pemraj Mansukdas.
„ Yeshwantrao Narayen.
„ Harichand Tarachand.
„ Deorao Patil.
„ Tukaram Patil.
„ Auyaji Patil.
„ Mahadaji Patil.
„ Sadasheo Patil.
„ Maruti Patil.
„ Deorao Khushalrao.
Mr. Ramji Deshmukh.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, BULDANA DISTRICT.

The Deputy Commissioner.
Captain T. C. Plowden.
Rai Bahadur Nava Gopal Sarkar.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Mahomed Salamulla Khan.
Mr. Mahadeo Sakharam.
„ Waman Renko.
„ Amrutrao Deshmukh.
„ Balmukand Bansilal.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, BASIM DISTRICT.

F. W. A. Prideaux, Esq.
Captain W. Haig.
Mr. Trimbak Ganesh Parajpe.
„ Yeshwantrao, pleader.
Mr. Ramprasad Bamlukand.
„ R. B. B. K. Joshi.
„ A. Barr.
„ The Tehsildars of the three Talukas.

MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, AKOLA DISTRICT.

Mr. Rustamji Foriddunji, Esq.
„ Vishwanath N. Dandeker.
„ R. N. Deshpande, B.A.
„ K. G. Damle, B.A., LL.B.
„ R. Galloway.
„ A. Currie.
R. B. Dedrao Jaikrishna.
Mr. V. M. Mahajani, M.A.
Raosaheb Deorao Vinayek.
R. B. Dallatrya V. Bhagwat.
Mr. E. J. Sanjana.
„ Govindraj Ayya Mudhaliyar.
„ N. K. Date.
„ Jaikrishna Bagaji.
„ Salimkhan Dawood Khan.
Mr. Mir Anwar Alli.
„ L. G. Deshpande.
„ V. G. Deshpande.
„ V. R. Shembeker.
„ Rahimatulla.
„ Jagannathdas Rampratap.
„ Balchand Bansilal.
„ Dhondji Kondji.
„ D. G. Patwardhan, B.A., LL.B.
„ Vithuji Narayen.
„ Surajinab Govindram.
„ Shriram Shaligram.
„ Tayab Nurkatchi.
„ V. S. Bapat.
„ Jaideo Ramdeo.

NOTE.—The Wun District Report does not give the names of the members of the District Committee.

Object II.

Name of District.	No. of persons relieved.	Total cost.	Cost per head.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Amraoti	.....	.....	.....
Akola	3	3 8 6	1 5 4
Ellichpur	.....	.....	.....
Melghat	.....	4,987 0 0	.....
Buldana	37	92 7 0	2 7 9
Basim	53	95 8 7	1 12 11
Wun	.....	.....	.....

Object IV.

Name of District.	No. of persons relieved.	Total cost.	Cost per head.
		₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Amraoti	4,216	66,572 1 7	15 12 7
Akola	16,858	1,58,575 11 8	9 6 5
Ellichpur	2,904	47,875 10 10	15 13 0
Melghat	.....	59,087 7 9	.....
Buldana	16,527	1,16,846 2 4	7 1 1
Basim	11,560	1,11,109 0 1	7 0 0
Wun	2,439	8,532 7 6	3 7 0

Statement A.

Expenditure actually incurred.

Name of District.	Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.	Office establishment, miscellaneous, etc.	Total.
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
Amraoti	9,878 3 10	...	21,549 1 7	66,572 1 7	1,015 8 0	99,014 15 0
Akola	19,861 8 10	3 8 6	2,480 0 0	1,58,575 11 8	...	1,80,920 13 0
Ellichpur	12,609 11 7	...	...	47,875 10 10	379 3 11	60,864 10 4
Melghat	8,189 7 0	4,987 0 0	...	59,087 7 9	...	72,263 14 9
Buldana	24,510 15 9	92 7 0	493 5 9	1,16,846 2 4	770 0 9	1,42,712 15 7
Basim	36,767 15 4	95 8 7	5,308 0 0	1,11,109 0 1	475 11 6	1,53,756 3 6
Wun	8,740 4 1	...	80 0 0	8,532 7 6	...	17,352 11 7
Total .	1,20,558 2 5	5,178 8 1	29,910 7 4	5,68,598 9 9	2,640 8 2	7,26,886 3 9

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OF THE MADRAS BRANCH OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIFF FUND, 1900.

The Committee was formed in March 1900 under the following circumstances:—

The season of 1899 was extremely unfavourable. In June and July the rainfall was very scanty over the greater portion of the Presidency and was less than the quantity recorded in any of the previous thirty years. In September, however, the rains were fairly normal and averted, for a time, the necessity for starting relief works; but in the subsequent months—October to December—there was a serious failure of the usual north-east monsoon rains, especially in the Deccan districts and in parts of Nellore and Kistna, which caused total loss of crops in some taluks and greatly reduced the outturn in others. From September 1899, owing to an abnormal demand for grain from Western India, which was severely affected by famine, the prices of the dry grains rose rapidly in the Deccan and Central districts, and at the end of December they were dearer than the scarcity rates in the former group, and ranged high in the rest of the Presidency. Early in February 1900, Government found it necessary to open a few test relief works in parts of Cuddapah and Nellore, and in March following, relief operations were extended to the other districts of the Deccan and to the upland taluks of Kistna. In February and March the prices of the staple food-grains were more than double the normal in the districts named above, but the stocks of grain were ample and the distress felt by the poorer classes was nowhere very acute.

Preliminary operations.—On the 9th March 1900, a public meeting of the citizens of Madras was held in the Banqueting Hall for the purpose of forming a local branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and for collecting funds for charitable relief, at which His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Havelock, presided. A report of this meeting is printed as an Appendix. Subscriptions amounting to ₹36,800 were announced on the spot, and a strong and influential Provincial Committee was appointed. On the 13th March a meeting of the Provincial Committee was held in the Banqueting Hall with His Excellency the Governor in the chair, at which an Executive Committee of forty-four members (subsequently raised to forty-five) was appointed, with the following office-bearers:—

The Hon'ble Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot, Chairman; Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Honorary Treasurers; Mr. H. K. Beauchamp and the Hon'ble P. Rajaratna Mudaliyar, Dewan Bahadur, C.I.E., Honorary Secretaries.

The Executive Committee held its first meeting on the 20th March and, after settling preliminary details, resolved to adopt the steps taken in 1897 for the collection of subscriptions. A circular letter was accordingly addressed to all Judges and Collectors of Districts inviting their co-operation, and requesting them to form local Committees, chiefly of non-official members, for organising measures for raising subscriptions for purposes of charitable relief and for distributing relief where necessary.

The Committee met again on the 3rd April and amongst other things resolved to collect small subscriptions by placing boxes at all the principal places of public resort, such as Banks, Temples, Railway Stations, Shops, etc., and boxes were accordingly sent to the various banks, firms, trustees of temples, etc., in the city, with fairly satisfactory results. Arrangements were also made for holding entertainments in aid of the Fund.

In response to the circular issued to them, Collectors and District Judges all over the Presidency and the Dewans of Travancore and Pudukkottai soon organized District Committees at their Head-Quarters with local Sub-Committees at various centres in their districts.

The total subscriptions promised up to the end of December 1900 amounted to ₹2,71,841, of which ₹2,41,611 had been collected up to the end of November, *viz.*, ₹2,05,591 towards the General, and ₹36,020 towards the Provincial

Fund. Of the total collections on account of the General Fund, R1,85,000 have been remitted to the Central Committee at Calcutta, as shown below:—

	R
2nd April	25,000
2nd May	25,000
6th June	15,000
3rd July	20,000
18th July	15,000
8th August	30,000
5th September	20,000
11th September	20,000
5th October	15,000

Considering that the resources of the people of the Presidency had been severely taxed during the year, and that many of them had contributed largely towards the Transvaal War Fund, etc., the subscriptions to the Famine Charitable Relief Fund may be considered to be on the whole very satisfactory and compared well with the subscriptions raised in 1897. As the distress in the Presidency was confined to a small area and was not very acute, the collections towards the Provincial Fund were not large, amounting to only R36,020 up to the 15th December 1900. Of this sum, R28,526 has been allotted to the districts named in the margin for granting relief to the distressed poor.

	R
Cuddapah	8,500
Kurnool	2,000
Anantapur	2,020*
Kistna	2,500
Nellore	1,500
North Arcot	3,000
Malabar	9,006

The Administration of the Funds.—In his speech at the inaugural meeting of the Famine Fund at Calcutta, His Excellency Lord Curzon indicated the objects to which the Charitable Relief Fund might be legitimately devoted, without interfering with or overlapping the operations undertaken by the State. These objects were the same as those laid down by Lord Elgin in 1897. The first of these provides for supplementing Government gratuitous relief to the aged, infirm and children, and the third for the relief of the numerous poor but respectable persons, who will undergo almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief. The bulk of the relief given in this Presidency during the present distress was under these two heads. It may be noted, however, that no gratuitous relief was granted by Government in any district, and what relief was granted in this way was entirely from the Famine Relief Fund.

The amount spent was largest in Cuddapah. The local Committee of this district brought to the notice of the Executive Committee early in May 1900 the unsatisfactory condition of the people in certain parts of the district and applied for a grant of R5,000 for giving relief to gosha women and to such of the respectable poor as were contemplated in object III. After consulting the Board of Revenue Member in charge of Government relief operations, a sum of R1,500 was at once allotted to the District Committee and a further sum of R3,000 was forwarded to the Committee in July following. In September a further grant of R2,000 was made to this district, and this was supplemented by a similar grant in November 1900, thus raising the total allotment for the district to R8,500. In addition to this grant, a sum of R5,000 was also allotted, at the instance of the Board of Revenue Member, for giving relief to the weavers in certain parts of the district. The poorer classes of this community, having lost their usual occupation owing to the absence of demand for their wares, were reduced to much distress, and Government adopted special measures for relieving them by providing them with employment at their own looms, and purchasing the cloths manufactured to order. Between February and September some 3,000 to 3,500 weavers were in receipt of this form of relief, but towards the end of September, when good rains fell and prospects much improved, Government discontinued the relief, and the weavers were left to their own resources. It was soon found, however, that the closing of the relief by Government had been somewhat premature, and a sum of R5,000 was accordingly sanctioned from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund (Provincial) for continuing relief to the weavers on the lines adopted by Government. The greater portion of the grant will, however, be recouped when

* Of this sum, R1,500 have been returned by the Committee.

the cloths manufactured by the weavers are sold and the proceeds credited to the Fund. While this Report is being printed information has been received to the effect that Government has resumed its weaver-relief operations; and so no further demand on our Fund will be necessary.

The system adopted in giving relief to the poor was similar to that followed in 1897-98. The condition of the several applicants was fully enquired into on the spot, and the applicants selected for relief were entered in a register prescribed for the purpose, and each person was furnished with a ticket of admission. On production of the ticket, the person was granted a money or grain dole, at rates fixed by the Sub-Committee, with the approval of the District Committee.

Besides the districts in which the Government opened its own relief works, the Committee found it necessary to grant relief from the Provincial Fund to two other districts, *viz.*, North Arcot and Malabar; where, owing to the failure of the usual rains, the poorer classes suffered considerable distress. In July last the Revd. Dominic brought to the notice of the Committee the condition of the lower classes in parts of Walajanagar taluk in North Arcot, and, after due enquiry by the local officers, a sum of R1,000 was placed in the hands of the District Committee for affording the required relief. Later on, in December, a further allotment of R2,000 was made to this District.

In Malabar where the season in 1899 was the worst known for several years, the District Committee arranged to retain for expenditure on local relief, three-fourths of the amount that might be collected in the District towards the Famine Fund. The sum thus set apart amounted to R9,006, out of which R7,930 was handed over to the Poor-House Committee at Calicut (consisting of the District Medical Officer, the Municipal Chairman and two other gentlemen), and the remainder was distributed to the District Sub-Committees for the relief of the poor.

Fortunately for the Presidency, the distress, as already stated, was not very severe, and private charity was everywhere available for the most needy. Considerable help was also given by various missionary bodies, more especially in parts of Kistna, Nellore, and Cuddapah. The Madras Government, for instance, has placed on record its high appreciation of the enlightened liberality of the Revd. Dr. J. E. Clough, of the American Baptist Mission, and of the services rendered by Mr. V. Ananda Rao Pantulu, Chairman, Municipal Council, Ongole, in connection with the relief of the poor during the recent famine in the Nellore district. The American Baptist Mission has been most generous during the late bad season, spending about R1,10,000 in various ways; of this, R20,000 have been spent in Ongole town for roads, water-supply and other improvements on which poverty-stricken and destitute people have been employed.

Information regarding the number of persons relieved in each district and the amounts actually disbursed from the Famine Fund is not yet available, as the operations are still in progress and may in all probability have to be continued until the next rains set in.

We append, however, the report of the District Committee of Cuddapah, where approximately R13,500 out of the total R33,526 was spent.

The Collectors of all Districts have made arrangements for auditing the accounts of the Funds in the manner indicated in our Committee's Resolution, dated the 20th November 1900, copy of which was forwarded to the Central Committee with our letter No. 340, dated 27th November 1900, while the accounts of the Executive Committee at Madras will be audited by an officer deputed by the Accountant-General.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

H. K. BEAUCHAMP,

P. RAJARATNA MUDALIYAR,

Honorary Secretaries.

APPENDIX I.

Formation of a Madras Branch.

In response to a requisition by the citizens of Madras, the Sheriff convened a public meeting on the 9th March 1900 at 5 P.M. at the Banqueting Hall for the purpose of forming a local branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund for the collection of subscriptions and for the distribution of relief. The meeting was very largely attended by representatives of all communities and interests in the city. Among those present were the Hon'ble Mr. G. G. Arbuthnot, the Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel, the Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham, the Hon'ble Justice Sir Subramania Iyer, His Highness the Prince of Arcot, the Hon'ble Mr. Norton, the Hon'ble Mr. Syed Mahomed Saheb Bahadur, Mr. H. K. Beauchamp, Mr. P. Rungiah Naidu, Mr. A. W. B. Higgens, Mr. H. Scott, the Ven'ble Archdeacon Elwes, the Honb'le Revd. Dr. Miller, Mr. N. Subramaniam, the Rajah of Parapanand, Rajah Sir S. Ramasawmy Moodelliar, Mr. Krishnadoss Balamukundoss, Mr. G. D. Ker, the Most Revd. Archbishop Colgan, the Right Revd. Bishop Mayer, the Revd. J. Ogilvie, Mr. V. G. Lynn, Mr. A. D. Jackson, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Pope, I.M.S., the Hon'ble Colonel Sir George Moore, Mr. O. R. Jones, Mr. P. R. Sundaram Iyer, Mr. V. Krishnasawmy Iyer, the Revd. J. Cooling, Mr. G. Narayanasawmy Chetty, Mr. G. Gopala Row, Mr. M. Veeraragavachariar, Mr. C. Karunakera Menon, Mr. Lodd Govindas, the Revd. J. Lazarus, Mr. P. Theagaroya Chetty, Mr. W. S. Venkataramanjulu Naidu, Mr. R. N. Pragasa Moodelliar, Mr. M. Thirumala Chariar, Mr. Sultan Mehideen Saheb Bahadur, Mr. John Adam, Mr. F. Nusserwanjee, Mr. S. Appasawmy Chettiar, Mr. N. Appusundaram Pillay, Dewan Bahadur V. Krishnamachariar, and several others.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mr. H. A. Sim, arrived punctually at 5 P.M., when the proceedings were opened by the Sheriff, Dewan Bahadur P. Ramasawmy Chettiar, reading the notice convening the meeting.

On the motion of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, seconded by Rajah Sir Ramasawmy Moodelliar, His Excellency the Governor was unanimously voted to the chair.

His Excellency the Governor made the following opening remarks :—

MY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, MY LORD ARCHBISHOP AND GENTLEMEN,—While deeply gratified to accept your invitation to take the chair at this meeting, the fact that three years only have passed since I filled the same place under like circumstances,—calls forth feelings of sorrow and disappointment that this country should, within the brief space of three years, be again visited with the dire calamity of famine,—and this time to a wider extent and perhaps in a more intense degree than on the former occasion,—is enough to strain to breaking point the patient heart of this much-enduring people. With an interval of less than a third of the cycle which theory and experience have suggested as a term of probable immunity from this terrible scourge, we are now again prostrated beneath its stroke. The present condition of this part of India, as compared with that of the vast area of unhappy regions over which famine now prevails, bears a resemblance to our condition when we joined in a similiar Public Meeting in February 1897. Now as then the Madras Presidency, though in parts affected seriously by drought, is not suffering from distress in an acute degree. This circumstance did not then excuse us or prevent us from coming generously to the aid of our afflicted fellow-subjects in less fortunate parts of India. Let it not do so now. Let us rather be moved to greater liberality by the reflection that they are in far greater distress than we are at present. I appeal, in the first place, and I feel I do so with a certainty of success, to your generosity and to your feelings of sympathy with our sorely tried brethren; but I appeal also to our sense of self-interest, to the charity which begins at home. For, even on the assumption that matters grow no worse in our own affected districts, it is certain that there will be ample scope for alleviating, in those districts, the distress which must inevitably be felt during the next few months. And if, as I fear is almost certain to be the case, the pinch becomes more severe within our own borders, there will be a loud call for succour. If we need a stimulating example of generosity, it is to be seen in Bengal, where His Excellency the Viceroy's appeal has been met by an enthusiastic reply, in the shape of munificent support. Such an example is also consipicuous in the ready response with which an appeal for help has been received by the British public, notwithstanding the earlier and cogent claims of the sufferers from the South African War. The perfection which has been attained in the Government organisation for the relief of sufferers from famine is one of the greatest triumphs of British rule in India. The responsibility of dealing with famine has been recognised by the Government for about 25 years only. We need not go beyond the Madras Presidency to see the results. Contrast the famine of 1876-77 with that of 1897-98. The former counted its victims by millions; I know of no authenticated case of death from starvation during the latter. We may now say with just pride that no man need starve if he will accept the relief offered. But, the duty and function of the State end with the prevention of starvation; and at that point the scope of private charity begins; and many and important are the measures of alleviation which it should and can achieve. The supply of clothing to the naked, and of comforts to the

weak and the sick; the distribution of seed for sowing, the provision of fodder for starving cattle, and help to start afresh those who have lost their all in the struggle,—these are examples of the forms of relief which can and should be given by private charity. The experience of our Provincial and Local Committees, who administered the Famine Fund in 1897-98 with such a marked degree of abilility and success, prove amply and eloquently the vast amount of good which private efforts, supplementing those of Government, can effect. The organisation of the Famine Fund which we are now about to consider may, I suggest, with advantage be modelled on that adopted in 1897. A General Committee, of which I have the honour to be a Vice-President, has been formed in Calcutta, and representatives of our leading men have consented to serve on that Committee. The business of our meeting to-day is to open a local branch of the Indian Charitable Relief Fund, and to form a Provincial Committee to administer the Fund.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. G. ARBUTHNOT was then called upon to move the first resolution. In doing so he said :—

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GENTLEMEN,—The resolution which I have the honour to propose is as follows :—"That a local branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund be opened in Madras for the collection of subscriptions and for the distribution of relief."

GENTLEMEN,—My first thought when I was asked to move this resolution to-night was that if not the "Absent-minded Beggar," of the song, I should much like to be in the position of an absent-bodied one, for I have begged so often of my kind friends in Madras,—begged them sometimes to open their purses, and sometimes their hearts—that in truth I begin to feel ashamed. But any such feeling was very short-lived, for I knew full well that standing here to-night to plead for the many millions of our famine-stricken fellow-subjects, those toiling millions whose life at the best is such a hard and penurious one, and who are now suffering from so dire a calamity, I knew full well that I should appeal to a sympathetic audience and should not plead in vain. And of this, too, I am quite sure, that in the face of the grim foe with whom we have to fight, all considerations of creed and colour, of caste and race, must be swept away as in a moment, and we shall stand all together on the broad safe basis of a common humanity. I was much interested, only a few days ago, by reading a picturesque Pathan proverb. "The patience of the Sirkar," so it ran, "is long as the summer's day, but the arm of the Sirkar is long as the winter's night." To those familiar with the long long winter's night of Northern latitudes it is a striking metaphor, a very vivid word-picture, but long though the Sirkar's arm may be—long alike to protect and to punish—yet it is not long enough to deal effectually with so vast a task as is now before it, and therefore it is that I ask your aid to support and to strengthen it. To save life, that is the clear duty of the Government; to make the life that is saved a little happier, a little more worth living, that is the high privilege which all we who contribute to this Famine Fund may aspire to and claim. The lines on which private relief can do so much to assist and supplement public or Government relief have been very carefully studied and wisely laid down and defined, and from my own experience during the last great famine, alas less than three years ago I am sure that you may rest satisfied that the private charitable fund will be well administered, and that it will bring substantial comfort and relief to thousands—I may almost say to hundreds of thousands of famine-stricken homes. I will not weary you with statistics of the vast—the nppallingly vast—numbers now dependent on relief, nor will I harrow your feelings with grim reminiscences of these terrible days more than 20 years ago when our whole Presidency seemed turned into one vast Famine camp, and here this very city of Madras was literally pervaded with poor living skeletons. But let us remember the generous help that we received both at that terrible time in our hour of extreme need, and again three years ago in 1897, and now, when our own needs are less pressing, let us not refuse to be generous in return. To the rich, then, I appeal for their thousands, their wealth can be spent for no nobler object and to the poor for their little mite which will perhaps deserve and earn even greater gratitude because it can be so hardly spared and yet is given cheerfully in so noble a cause—and thus it may well be that out of evil good will come. For we have been passing through a cycle of recurring war and pestilence and famine, but how many splendid examples these have brought us of noble generosity, of high courage, of patient, self-sacrifice and of devotion to duty. It is these bright examples which will surely go far to bind together every portion of our vast Empire by a golden chain, the links of which shall never be broken, and so I say again that good will come out of evil, and that these words will be found true that the deeper you plough the furrow the richer will be your harvest, and the greater hereafter your store of garnered grain. Gentlemen, I appeal to you, and not only to those in this hall, to-night, but to all Madras and this Presidency, to give cheerfully, to give generously in the full assurance that your giving will be blessed.

Mr. Justice Sir SUBRAMANIA IYER, in seconding the resolution, pointed out that they were not met there too soon. Many towns had taken steps for the purpose of collecting and distributing funds. Calcutta had liberally responded and Bombay had made its own contributions. In England also £120,000 had been already subscribed to the Famine Funds, notwithstanding the great demand upon their purse with reference to the Transvaal War. Such small Colonies as Ceylon and Mauritius were also taking steps to collect subscriptions. It was impossible that the people of Southern India should not come forward liberally and speedily to do their duty to their suffering countrymen in

Northern India. Though they had had an unfavourable season in a few districts to a degree unprecedented, yet comparing their condition with that of the affected people in the north, they must consider themselves very lucky; they must look upon it as fortunate that they were in a position to pay for the relief of their brethren in Northern India. It should be looked upon by every one in the Madras Presidency as a sacred duty to try and get as many subscriptions as possible for the relief of their fellow-countrymen. With regard to the question of the administration or collection of funds they should try and avoid a sort of Provincial feeling and not restrict the collection to a particular purpose or a particular part of the country. The organisation for the distribution of famine relief was perfect, and it was better for people to entrust the distribution of funds to that Committee than to do it themselves. They should give money freely and without any qualifications. It was an important matter for the people in the moffussil to communicate to the people here the condition of things in the north, stimulate their sympathies and induce them to give as much as possible.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. ARUNDEL, in supporting the resolution, said that the story of famine was unfortunately too well known not only in this Presidency, but throughout India. He had been looking up some old records to see how far back he could trace any steps taken with regard to the relief of famine, or any history in regard to famine in this country in days gone by. With regard to India generally he had not been able to get particulars, but with regard to this Presidency he found that the first record of famine of any considerable extent had been in 1782. That was followed by a famine in 1791-92, and subsequently almost at an interval of ten years. The earliest records said little on the matter as the area under British control had been so limited then. It was in the famine of 1791-92 that the Government first of all introduced works for the relief of sufferers. At that time there had been no declaration of policy that the Government would do all in their power to save people from starvation; but works were actually started for the relief of sufferers in that time. Famines of a more or less severe type followed in 1802-5, 1806-7, 1812-13, 1824-25, 1833. The last-mentioned famine affected the Kistna district in particular when 200,000 died out of 500,000. Then famine visited the country in 1854, 1865 and 1866. Then came the great famine of 1876-78 to which the Hon'ble Mr. Arbuthnot had referred. During that famine no less than 700,000 tons of grain were imported in 18 months into Madras. The actual amount expended by Government in the course of those two years came up to R624½ lakhs, besides loss of revenue to the extent of 191 lakhs. The Mansion House Fund reached £820,000. Then came the last famine of 1896-97. At present they might say, as regards this Presidency, the districts affected were Cuddapah, Kurnool and portions of Nellore, Bellary and Anantapur, so that they might regard themselves, as Sir Subramania Iyer had remarked, very fortunate. In fact they might say they were upon the edge of the great zone of famine which lay to the north of the Presidency. It was estimated that the expenditure on the famine in this Presidency would amount to R3 lakhs by the end of this month, and it was anticipated that R10 lakhs would have been expended before the next monsoon could give work to the labourers. He would give them an idea of the country now affected to the north of the Presidency. The area of this Presidency, including the States of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukkottai, was about 150,000 square miles. In the statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson in the Viceroy's Council on the 19th of January, he said that 300,000 square miles in British India and Native territories, with a population of 40 millions, had been affected, and that to those figures must be added another area of 150,000 square miles with a population of 21 millions which was actually verging on it. In all the area affected was put down at 450,000 square miles, and they could see what the extent of the famine must be when it spread over three times the area of this Presidency. To make another comparison, the area affected was nearly four times the extent of Great Britain and nearly a little more than twice the whole of France and the whole of the German Empire. It was also estimated by Mr. Ibbetson at that time, that the expenditure would probably amount, up to the end of this month, to between R300 and R400 lakhs. It was only right, therefore, that all classes of the community should join together in endeavouring to relieve the widespread distress, for whatever might be done by the State in the way of relief there was a boundless field for the exercise of private charity. Difficulties, trouble and suffering created a bond of union between classes and communities, no less than between individuals, in a way that prosperity could never do. Were an illustration needed of that, he would refer to the loyal enthusiasm of the unique meeting held only a few days ago in this city under the chairmanship of the Prince of Arcot, supported by the Hon'ble Sir Justice Subramania Iyer, in respect of British sufferers in the Transvaal War. Arguments were needless where all were convinced, and he felt that nothing more was required to be urged by him in support of the resolution before the meeting.

The Ven'ble Archdeacon ELWES, in supporting the motion, said that he had been very much struck by the working of the Executive Committee of the Famine Fund a few years ago and by the pains taken by the members of that Committee to obtain information to ask for help and to accept it from whatever source that came. He had been struck with the fact that if that Fund had not been formed and worked as it had been, although life might have been saved, there would have been far more suffering and trouble than there had actually been in that famine. Notwithstanding the demands made at home on the people for help towards the relief of widows and orphans in connection with the present

war, people at home entirely rejected the idea that because of the war they were not to help the Indian Famine Fund with subscriptions. He exhorted the public to give their best, however small it might be, for, as all people who were connected with societies and agencies for raising large funds knew perfectly well, while they were grateful for large gifts they really depended for sustained income on smaller gifts.

The resolution was then put and carried with acclamation.

The Most Revd. Archbishop COLGAN next moved that a Provincial Committee, with power to add to their number and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund, be formed:—

The Hon'ble Dr. MILLER, in seconding the resolution, said that he wished to direct the attention of the meeting to the other side of the question. Every one must remember that to every dark cloud there was a silver lining, and they should not forget that it was a part of the course of nature, or as some of them would perhaps prefer to call it, a part of the procedure of the Divine Providence, that there should be a soul of good even in things evil, and great calamities worked their way towards great and lasting benefits. In the midst of that calamity and distress there was a hope for the future. It was a part of the very laws of nature that through evil and suffering the very greatest lessons were often taught to mankind, and he trusted that time would show them that it was so in the present case. Amongst the lessons of high moral character was that of all races and sections of the community understanding one another better than they did and being knit together in closer sympathy to meet and feel heartily their common brotherhood in combating the great evil of famine. There was none who ventured to ask for such terrible and material suffering as a means towards moral and spiritual good; yet when the material and physical suffering was unavoidable, it was perfectly legitimate for them to draw from it a hope that it might be a means of lasting and ever increasing benefits. It was so in the case of the terrible war which was at present engaging their deepest attention day by day. It was a sad and terrible calamity, and, he was sure, there was no one who would not desire to stop it to-morrow, if they could only do so in consistence with claims of justice, honour and duty. It was a great calamity and yet had they not already had much to console them? Was not that dark cloud already showing a very broad silver lining behind it? They had seen that there was a drawing together of communities that had been separate in many ways, there was throbbing of one common life through every member of their vastly extended Empire; they saw the hope drawing before them of a nobler organisation and more powerful influence of good upon the generations that were to come. They saw the spirit of self-sacrifice awakened in every land over which floated the British flag. They, in India were called upon to combat a foe that threatened to desolate a large part of the country. If they gained a victory, that victory need not be saddened by the thought of disappointment and sorrow caused to men who were noble and honourable, even though they might be misguided and misled. They were not called upon like those who had to plough the stern fields of war, to inflict suffering upon anyone. Their business was to alleviate suffering and not in any degree to cause it. They might well go forward to do with complete whole-heartedness and without hesitation, feeling certain that what they had to do if it be done energetically, steadily and resolutely would not only do immediate good but would leave behind it to generations a large and lasting harvest of moral benefit in the increased understanding between race and race, section and section of the community in their learning to work more harmoniously and sympathetically together, and in laying the broad foundations of the great edifice which would some time rise in this great land so that India would take her place in every sense as one member of the great and world-wide Empire and federation full of blessings and promise for ages that were unborn.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. RUNGIAH NAIDU next supported the motion in a short speech, after which it was put and carried unanimously.

His EXCELLENCY read, for the information of the meeting, a telegram from His Highness the Maharajah of Travancore expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting and subscribing a sum of ₹10,000 towards the Fund.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor, proposed by the Hon'be Nawab Mahomed Bahadur.

APPENDIX II.

Statement showing the collection by the various District Committees up to 30th November 1900.

Districts.	General Fund.			Provincial Fund.			Total.		
	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.
Anantapur	1,873	1	6	.....			1,873	1	6
North Arcot	1,484	3	3	.....			1,484	3	3
South Arcot	3,365	14	1	4,643	13	11	8,009	12	0
Bellary	5,218	5	2	.....			5,218	5	2
South Canara	4,854	13	9	.....			4,854	13	9
Chingleput	6,561	14	7	.....			6,561	14	7
Coimbatore	11,229	13	0	.....			11,229	13	0
Cuddapah	2,184	0	0	.....			2,184	0	0
Ganjam	6,481	0	9	692	0	0	7,173	0	9
Godavari	6,132	10	6	206	0	0	6,338	10	6
Kistna	8,859	10	0	697	8	0	9,557	2	0
Kurnool	2,430	0	0	.....			2,430	0	0
Madura	17,880	9	2	.....			17,880	9	2
Nellore*	1,347	8	0	.....			1,347	8	0
Salem	6,380	12	8	2,097	13	6	8,478	10	2
Tanjore	6,724	14	0	.....			6,724	14	0
Tinnevelly	7,445	13	2	402	8	0	7,848	5	2
Trichinopoly	3,924	12	0	.....			3,924	12	0
Vizagapatam	7,000	0	0	.....			7,000	0	0
Travancore	17,000	0	0	.....			17,000	0	0
Pudukkottai	3,900	0	0	.....			3,900	0	0
Malabar	1,320	0	0	11,491	3	10	12,811	3	10
TOTAL	1,33,599	11	7	20,230	15	3	1,53,830	10	10

* To this amount must be added ₹87,780-7-9, being the collections made in Madras town and sums remitted to the Honorary Treasurers direct.

APPENDIX III.

Statement showing the allotments to the several District Committees.

Districts.	Heads I and III.	Head IV.	For other purposes.	Total.	REMARKS.
	₹	₹	₹	₹	
Anantapur	* 2,020	...	...	2,020	* Of this sum ₹1,500 have been returned.
Cuddapah	8,500	...	† 5,000	13,500	† For the relief of weavers.
Kurnool	2,000	...	...	2,000	
Kistna	2,500	...	...	2,500	
Nellore	1,500	...	...	1,500	
North Arcot	3,000	...	...	3,000	
Malabar	‡ 1,076	...	‡ 7,930	9,006	‡ These sums were given by the Malabar District Committee to the Poor-house Committee, Calicut, and to other local Committees for relief of destitute poor in the district.
TOTAL	20,596	...	12,930	33,526	

APPENDIX IV.

The Cuddapah District Report.

From the Honorary Secretary, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Cuddapah, to the Honorary Secretaries, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, Madras, dated Cuddapah, 14th December 1900, No. 199.

In reply to your letter No. 362, dated the 12th instant, I have the honour to report as follows :—

In accordance with your requisition, dated 22nd March 1900, Mr. Harding convened a public meeting on the 21st April last at Cuddapah to raise subscriptions in aid of the Fund, and to form Committees to work in the distribution of money in tracts where distress may be prevalent.

2. At the meeting held on 21st April 1900, as above stated, a District Committee was formed. An Executive Committee consisting of 18 members with Secretaries and Treasurer was also constituted, the Collector being its President and the District Registrar its Vice-President. The Divisional officers were requested to hold similar meetings in each of the taluka centres. Meetings were accordingly convened in all the Taluka Head-quarters. Eleven Sub-Committees were thus constituted, the Divisional officer being the Chairman of the Committees in his Division and the Tahsildar the Vice-Chairman of that in his taluka. Executive Committees with Secretaries and Treasurer were elected at each of the meetings to work out the objects of the Fund.

3. At the meetings held as above, and in reply to requisitions addressed direct, R3,387-12 were promised as subscriptions. Of this, R2,244 were collected up to the end of November 1900. The details are as noted below :—

	Promised.	Collected.
	₹	₹
Cuddapah	976	889
Cuddapah Sub-Committee	77	40
Proddatur	227	217
Jammalamadugu	171	80
Pulivendla	90	71
Badvel	533	182
Sidhout	273	74
Pullampet	484	314
Ráyachóti	305	227
Kadiri	13	13
Vayalpad	87	57
Madanapalle	151	80
TOTAL	3,387	2,244

The amount collected was remitted to Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. from time to time.

4. Aid was given under the Fund in the talukas noted in the margin. It was, as a rule, restricted to the most necessitous cases, *i.e.*, "to the old and such other people who could not possibly support themselves and who were suffering from want of crops or absence of private charity, to young children who had none to support them, and to such respectable but poor persons who could not do work of the ordinary kind."

1. Badvel.
2. Vayalpad.
3. Madanapalle.
4. Kadiri.
5. Ráyachóti.
6. Pulivendla.
7. Jammalamadugu.
8. Proddatur.
9. Cuddapah.

5. As each Sub-Committee reported the necessity for help, instructions were given to form the tract where help was to be rendered into circles, each circle containing a small number of villages. In these circles, persons deserving help were registered by individuals appointed for the purpose. They were in the main Village Officers, Revenue Inspectors, Tahsildars and members resident in the circles. Before any name was finally accepted for relief the nominee's status was ascertained by at least two members. This restriction was waived where the selection happened to be made by the Tahsildar or the Divisional officer on circuit. As each list was approved, a ticket was given to the recipient who received his dole every week in the presence of the Village Magistrate of the place or the Secretary of the Committee and a Panchayat nominated by the Divisional officer for each centre of distribution. As each person presented his ticket the payment of the day was noted on it and the paid up tickets under the signature of the disbursing gentleman were accepted as vouchers for payment. Before any distribution commenced, the lists or abstracts were received by the District Committee and allotments were made in proportion to the requirements of the tract and the amount of money available for distribution. When the distribution commenced in any tract, further allotments were made as occasion arose on the reports of the Chairman and Secretaries of the Committees.

In every Sub-Committee Office, a daily cash-book, a nominal register of persons helped and other accounts necessary for check are maintained. Similar accounts are kept by the disbursing members.

In most particulars the distribution proceeded on the lines adopted in the Famine of 1896-97.

6. Sub-joined is a statement showing the number of villages wherein help was or is being given, the number of persons helped and the amount spent :—

Committee.	Number of villages where help was or is given.	Number of persons helped.	Allotment.	Amount spent.	Remarks.
			R a. p.	R a. p.	
District Committee .	...	...	79 10 5	79 10 5	Contingencies, Postage, etc. establishment.
Cuddapah Sub-Committee	21	1,048	828 7 0	769 0 7	Work closed.
Proddatur . . .	Information not yet received.	185	510 0 0	100 0 0	In clothes, distribution, 31st October and 1st November 1900.
Jammalamadugu . .	...	...	455 0 0	...	Distribution commenced in November.
Pulivendla . . .	16	226	400 0 0	184 6 0	Work commenced in September.
Badvel . . .	3	216	885 0 0	773 6 11	Work closed in September.
Sidhout . . .	...	...	3 0 0	0 3 6	Contingencies.
Ráyachóti . . .	10	277	700 0 0	565 1 9½	
Kadiri	14	110	700 1 0	640 8 6	Distribution will soon cease
Vayalpad . . .	6	242	1,000 0 0	993 11 0	Work closed at the end of October.
Madanapalle . . .	2	219	920 0 0	834 2 0	
Total .	72	*2,523	6,481 1 5	4,940 2 8⅓	

* All the figures in this column represent the number of persons helped in October excepting for Badvel. For this station the number helped in September is given. In Cuddapah the distribution in villages was weekly and the figures represent the total of weekly returns, as in those villages help was given when the Tahsildar was on circuit.

7. The ordinary rate of distribution was one anna per head per diem, children under 12 receiving half the amount. But in Badvel the distribution was by grain in the commencement, and this was subsequently abandoned for that in money. In Kadiri and Madanapalle, the distribution was in grain.

	Per adult per diem.
Kadiri	3 chitties and 1 pie.
Madanapalle . . .	3 ollocks of ragi.

8. Up to 31st October 1900, the Madras Committee remitted R6,500. Adding to this the sum of R45 remitted by Mr. Harding for expenditure in the District, R6,545 was the total sum available for expenditure. The allotments made out of this have been noted in the statement in paragraph 6. Since then a sum of R2,000 was received, and out of this, allotments were made in November as particularized in the margin. The Committee hoped to close their work by the end of October, but by the failure of the north-east monsoon the distribution has to continue in the talukas to which fresh allotments were made as above and in Jammalamadugu.

	R
Madanapalle	100
Ráyachóti	500
Pulivendla	400
Proddatur	100
Cuddapah	500
Total	1,600

Badvel	45
Madanapalle	30
Vayalpad	21
Pulivendla	40
Cuddapah	38
Total .	174

9. Rajah Sir Ramasawmy Mudaliar Avergal made a timely gift of 200 clothes, and out of these 174 have been distributed. Particulars are given in the margin.

10. In Jammalamadugu and the surrounding parts, there is a pretty large weaving industry, which supplies parts of Central India with turbans. Owing to the scarcity in the north of India and in Jammalamadugu itself, their manufactures were hardly in demand. The weaver community was helped by the Government in the late drought by advance of yarn and payment of cooly for the cloth manufactured when it was delivered. When the Government ceased its relief operations in October, it was hoped that the community would not stand in need of outside relief, but owing to the continued scarcity and the conditions of the trade, it was reported that there was considerable distress. On the facts being placed before the Madras Committee, it was pleased to make a grant of R5,000 to be spent on the same lines as the Government system of relief. The work commenced

under the supervision of the Divisional Officer on the 26th November, and 115 looms were in receipt of help, *i.e.*, 217 men and 216 women were estimated to be helped, in the period up to the 12th December.

11. In conclusion, the Committee wishes to thank the Madras Committee for the liberal and prompt help rendered to the district by the various remittances they have made till now. Owing to the continued high prices, the failure of the crops, and the shrinkage of private charity, there was considerable distress in the various places helped, which this Committee, with the co-operation of its various members, was, so far as it could, enabled to relieve. The thanks of the Committee are particularly due to the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, and the Secretaries, and the members of the Sub-Committees who by their zeal and co-operation helped in the due distribution of the sums allotted to them.

REPORT ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900.

I am directed by the Executive Committee, North-Western Provinces and Oudh Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, to forward, herewith, a statement of account of the expenditure of the R25,000 in the Jhansi District, North-Western Provinces, which was granted by your Committee as advised in your letter No. 490, dated 25th May 1900.

2. A copy of the Commissioner of Allahabad's forwarding letter is also enclosed for information.

3. The accounts have been audited by M. Ghafur Khan, Deputy Collector of the Jhansi District, who has appended a certificate of audit. The audit was carried out under the orders of the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division, as was reported to you by my predecessor in his letter No. 125, of the 21st October 1900. This arrangement was approved of in your letter No. 1094, dated 24th October 1900.

4. This Committee has scrutinised the accounts submitted which appear to be in conformity with the instructions laid down in enclosure A, appended to Sir Francis Maclean's letter, of the 26th February 1900, and the audit appears to have been conducted on the lines laid down in the printed letter of instructions, copies of which were received with your No. 1094, dated 24th October 1900.

In the opinion of this Committee the audit is sufficient and may be accepted.

Yours faithfully,

B. LINDSAY, C.S.,
Honorary Secretary.

P.S.—A copy of a report on the distribution of the grant is also forwarded for information of your Committee.

B. L.

Enclosures:—

As per letter.

Copy of letter No. 486-F.R.-29, dated Allahabad, the 31st October 1900, from the Commissioner, Allahabad Division, to the Honorary Secretary, Executive Committee, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

With reference to your predecessor's demi-official letter No. 60, dated 28th May last, enclosing a cheque for R25,000, granted from the Fund for distribution in the Jhansi District, I have the honour to enclose two statements of expenditure of the amount in the prescribed form submitted by the Collector of Jhansi.

2. In this connection, I wish to take the opportunity of thanking the Central Committee for the generous gift of this twenty-five thousand rupees, which has been of great use in assisting the agriculturists of Jhansi and Lalitpur. The bighas shown in column 2 of the Object IV Statement is 0·466 of an acre.

3. The Auditor's certificate is forwarded in original.

Copy of a letter No. 686 of 1900, dated Jhansi, the 26th October 1900, from the Officiating Collector of Jhansi, to the Commissioner, Allahabad Division, Allahabad.

In continuation of my Nos. 676 and 682 of 14th October 1900, I have the honour to submit a note on the method of distribution of the R25,000

Famine Fund money allotted to this district. The money was allotted as follows:—

Tahsil.	Amount for bullocks and seeds, etc.	Clothes, etc.
Garotha	2,500	250
Jhansi	2,500	1,500*
Mau	2,000	250
Math	2,500	250
Lalitpur, Mahroni	12,500	750
TOTAL	22,000	3,000

* Includes R1,000 made over to the Jhansi City Fund.

I enclose a copy of the report of Pandit Ajudhia Pershad, who distributed the money allotted to Garotha and Math, which is very clear and will hold practically for the distribution in the other two tahsils of Jhansi proper (Jhansi and Mau). Pandit Ajudhia Pershad obviously made careful enquiries before distributing. I also enclose a copy of a note, I wrote as Sub-Divisional Officer of Lalitpur, on the distribution of the R12,500 allotted to the sub-division.

There remains for description only the method of distributing the money (R750) allotted for clothes in Lalitpur. Cloth was purchased locally at the various towns and villages where there were Koris (R300 worth in Mahroni and R450 in Lalitpur). I then allotted the cloth so purchased to various distributors—six selected members of the District Sub-Committee, the tahsildars and naib-tahsildars of Lalitpur and Mahroni, the two naib-tahsildars on Circle Relief Duty, and the Revd. Mr. Van Horn, an American Missionary, who kindly undertook to help, and kept some for myself.

In all cases lists of the names of the recipients were made out.

The members of the District Sub-Committee distributed the clothes in their own villages and their immediate neighbourhood; the tahsildars and naib-tahsildars of the two tahsils in their tahsili head-quarters and in the parts of the sub-division in which they were in charge of the village relief and for which there were no other distributors; the Revd. Mr. Van Horn distributed in and for five miles round five inspection bungalows. I would like to note here the great help afforded by the American Mission at Lalitpur, the head of which was Mrs. Bacon, and a member of which is the Revd. Mr. Van Horn. Far from limiting their assistance to assisting in distribution, they contributed liberally from their own resources and distributed freely of grain and clothing, they also took in many orphans. I am sincerely sorry to say that Mrs. Bacon died of cholera early in September, having contracted the disease while attending some of the orphans in her home who were suffering from it.

The naib-tahsildars solely on village relief duty and myself combined village inspections with distribution. My plan, and I believe theirs was quite similar, was to select those that seemed in greatest need of garments from among the crowd of poor persons who were collected for correction of the village relief lists.

A considerable number of garments was allotted to the inmates of the poor-house at Mahroni.

In all the R750 allowed of garments being presented to 1,765 persons.

Finally on behalf of the recipients, I tender my heartiest thanks to the contributors to the Famine Fund. It has set many persons up, who had otherwise been hopelessly "down," and enabled many a cultivator to take advantage of, what there is every reason to believe is, one of the best harvests the District has had for ten years past.

Report on the distribution of the Takavi of the Indian Famine Fund.

1. I was given R5,500 of the above fund money to be distributed as charitable takavi in tahsils Math and Garotha equally. Of this, R5,000 were for bullock and seed takavi and R500 for clothes.

2. On receipt of the Collector's order, I wrote to tahsildars of Math and Garotha and to the special manager regarding Gursarai villages, to prepare lists

of persons that should appear to them to be deserving, and told them to include in the list those persons to whom the ordinary takavi, under Act XII, had been refused on account of insufficient security. I fixed then the dates of my arrival there and ordered the persons to be called. It being thus known that the takavi would be distributed throughout the perganahs, people collected at the tahsils on the appointed dates with patwaris and lambardars.

3. On arrival, I first went about the crowd and took down the names of the villages whence each person had come. Then I called before me each village separately and made the persons come together with the patwari, headman and lambardars. I asked first all the persons that were before me to name the poorest of them and then the next in poverty, and when the number of grantees to be taken from each village fixed according to the population, the circumstances of the villagers and their cultivation had been thus ascertained, the patwaris, the lambardars and the headman of the village were asked if the persons selected were really the most deserving. The tahsildars and the special managers were allowed to use their own local knowledge in fixing the number that should be taken from each village. In this way the list was prepared and afterwards the takavi money was distributed.

4. As in the *kharif* crop seed does not cost much, the whole of the takavi money in both Math and Garotha was distributed for the purchase of bullocks.

5. Thus R2,500 for bullock takavi were distributed in Garotha to 159 persons for 166 bullocks. The same amount of money was distributed to 159 persons for 168 bullocks. Of this, R1,185 went to Gursarai villages in Garotha and Math.

6. Besides the five thousand for bullock and seed takavi, there were R250 for Math and R250 for Garotha for the distribution of cloth among the poor. I ordered the tahsildars to purchase cloth of local manufacture as far as possible that the Koris and Julahas be benefited, as in the villages people generally wear coarse cloth and select it for its durability and not so much for its look. The cloth purchased was *garha* mostly and some pieces of the stuff for payjamas of Mahomedan women. The cloth was distributed in my presence and on my selection at Garotha, and some R70 worth of stuff was over which I told the tahsildar of Garotha to distribute among those who could not come being *pardanashins* or too weak to walk.

At Math the cloth was purchased and also at Chirgaon and distributed in my presence at the two centres. A little stuff was over which was here too given to the tahsildar for distribution to *pardanashins* and weak and poor old persons who could not come to the centres appointed. Thus the whole sum of R5,500 has been accounted for.

7. Many families are grateful to the Indian Famine Fund for the prospects they now have of the *kharif* crops, which, but for this help of charitable takavi, would even after the ample rains have been but gloomy. (The land would have remained untilled now tilled with the money for bullocks so charitably given them.)

I herewith submit the table showing the method of distribution of the R12,500 of the Famine Fund money allotted to Lalitpur for the object stated.

On receiving orders to distribute the money, I had already issued orders fixing dates on which the headmen and patwaris of every village in the Sub-Division were to meet me to arrange for the Census. I accordingly combined the Census arrangements with the task of determining to whom the Fund money should be granted. I had always the headmen of the village and the patwaris, and in by far the greater number of cases (in all the larger villages) several other villagers of standing. From these I enquired the names and condition (amount of land held by and bullocks possessed and lost by) the persons whom they considered worst off in the village. I had determined roughly (by comparing the total agricultural population of the sub-division with the amount of the grant) that there would be something under 10 per cent. of the agricultural population. This fixed average I modified in accordance with the condition of the different perganahs. The annexed table will show more or less the figures I made use of in guiding me as to how much to allot to each perganah. I considered a perganah as worse off more or less in proportion to the percentage of land revenue that had been suspended (column 4). But I did not adhere to this mathematically for since the suspensions had been arranged in

February and March, I had had many opportunities of becoming better acquainted with the state of the sub-division, and so learnt that the southern perganahs, Maraora and Bala Bahat, more especially the former, were really worse off than would thus appear, while Mahroni, Bansi and Talhehat were better off.

Having got my list of worthy might-be recipients (a list containing about half as many again names as were really necessary), I picked out those worst off and issued notices to the village headmen directing them to bring these persons to Lalitpur from Lalitpur tahsil, and to Chaprat from Mahroni tahsil. The headmen identified their own villagers, and as I knew personally a good many of the headmen, and these knew others or my own chaprasis were able to identify them, I was able in the case of every recipient to establish a chain of recognitions ending with myself.

This having been done and the identifier's name recorded, the sum allotted was delivered into the recipient's own hand.

As in every case the money was paid in my presence, there seemed no necessity to go through the farce (and waste of time) of making each illiterate recipient make his mark and have it attested by others (at doubtless so much on attestation).

The whole of this distribution I did myself, save only the first selection of names in perganahs Talbihat and Bansi and part of Lalitpur. In the first two I had completed the Census arrangement before receiving notice of this allotment; in the last on the day I had fixed for the headmen to attend, I had so much other work that I had to leave about half the villages to the tahsildar. Bansi and Talihat perganahs were done by the Deputy Collector and tahsildar. For the town of Lalitpur, Choube Deoki Nandan, Vice-President of the Municipal Committee, assisted me.

The members of the District Sub-Committee appeared in their capacity as headmen of their villages and gave useful aid.

As the table shows the bulk of the money goes for seed and bullocks, but in every case that I had the chance, I tried to re-establish alternative industries; thus in Banpur I allotted R100 to a group of ten *tamolies* to re-establish the old *betel* garden industry there. The *tamolies* have given a bond undertaking to restore the money if they fail to establish them these rains.

In Solda I allotted a Lohar R15 to set up his iron-furnance there; the industry of iron-smelting has been long established there, and this man had been ruined during the past year owing at least indirectly to the famine.

In other places I allotted sums to restart carpenters, weavers, cotton cleaners, etc.

I do not pretend to say that acting as I did almost solely through the headman (not a patwari was present at the distribution), no money passed to the headman and persons other than the recipients, but I think comparatively little so passed, and even if it did so it went to the real recipients' fellow villagers, fellow castemen and fellow cultivators in many cases, in others zamindars, and so probably benefitted the village at least, which probably would not be the case if it went to a patwari who is here invariably a Kayesth.

Pergana.	Agricultural population.	Shares mathematically proportional to agricultural population.	Percentage of Land Revenue remitted.	Preliminary allotment for calculating columns 6 and 7.	Allotment per 100 of agricultural population.	No. of agricultural population entitled to Rs. 10.	Actual sum allotted to perganas.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		₹		₹		₹	₹
Banpur	33,300	2,519	25	2,550	Rs. 7·66=7 10 6	131	2,459
Mahroni . . .	13,600	1,025	33	1,300	„ 9·56=9 8 2	105	1,231
Maraura . . .	25,500	1,922	26	2,200	„ 8·65=8 10 0	116	2,222
Balahihat . . .	9,000	679	22	650	„ 7·22=7 3 7	139	720
Bansi	15,000	1,130	27	1,100	„ 7·33=7 5 4	137	1,090
Lalitpur . . .	41,700	3,143	21	2,400	„ 5·88=5 14 0	170	2,578
Talbihat . . .	27,500	2,072	36	2,000	„ 8·36=8 10 0	120	2,200
					TOTAL .		12,500

REPORT ON THE OPERATION IN BALUCHISTAN, INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900.

Copy of a letter No. 1998, dated Sibi, the 9th March 1901, from the Deputy Commissioner, Thal Chotiali, to the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan.

In continuation of my letter No. 569, dated 22nd January 1901, with which was forwarded an account of the disbursement in this district of the sums granted from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and with reference to Circular letter No. C-24, dated 3rd December 1900, from the Honorary Secretary to the Central Executive Committee, I have the honor to report as follows on the operations connected with the Fund in Thal Chotiali.

2. The tracts in this district in which scarcity had been most severely felt were:—

(*a*) The villages in the eastern part of the Sibi tahsil, whose lands are entirely dependent on floodings from the Thalli torrent for their irrigation.

(*b*) The high lying villages of Pur Warikha, etc., in the Sharigh tahsil, whose lands are also without secure irrigation; and the area on the Zarghun range occupied by the Dumar tribe who have but little cultivation even in good years and depend almost entirely on their flocks and herds.

(*c*) The Barkhan tahsil, where, with the exception of Haji Kot and a few villages in Legharai Barkhan, there is but little land possessing secure irrigation.

(*d*) The Kohlu Sub-tahsil which is almost entirely dependent on flood irrigation, and where large numbers of the people are Semi-Nomadic in their habits, and depend for their subsistence mainly on their flocks.

3. In the Sibi "Khushkaba" tracts the distress had been acute. The people had had, practically, no crops whatever for two years. Their plough cattle were nearly all dead. During the autumn of 1899, the villages were almost entirely deserted by the bread winners who had scattered all over Upper Sind, and through the irrigated villages of Sibi, to look for work, and who in most cases were quite unable to afford any assistance to the dependents whom they had left behind. These subsisted as best they could on roots and tamarisk manna, but many of them, especially of the very young, the very old and the infirm, were actually starving. These were kept alive during the winter by doles of grain distributed weekly, while road works opened near the villages and limited to the inhabitants, soon brought back the greater part of the adult males, who were thus supplied with work near their homes and were given the means of supporting their families.

These measures were carried out from the Provincial Revenues, and sufficed to prevent any loss of life and to keep the poeple in fairly good condition until the ripening of the spring harvest on the lands of the irrigated villages gave them temporary employment in harvesting operations. It remained, however, to provide the zemindars of the stricken villages with the means of replacing their plough cattle, and of purchasing seed, so that they might take advantage of the summer and autumn rains which fortunately were unusually heavy. The allotment for takkavi advances for the district, though largely increased at my representation, was insufficient to meet the unprecedented calls upon it from all parts of the district, and even had funds been forthcoming numerous zemindars of the Sibi villages were brought so low that they would have been unwilling to take a loan and unable to furnish security for its repayment. Consequently a sum of R3,481-4-0 out of the grant made from the Charitable Fund, was distributed among the more needy zemindars of these villages, and enabled them to take full advantage of the rains and to cultivate an unusually large area for the *kharif* crop. I am glad to say that though the grain was somewhat damaged by rain during the harvest, they have reaped a plentiful return, and that in some cases they have been able to bring a considerable amount of land under cultivation for the rabi harvest, which is not usual on these lands. In short, the people of these villages have been replaced in a state of comparative well-being, and with moderately favourable seasons, should soon recover entirely from the effects of the scarcity.

4. The state of things was very similar in the unirrigated villages of the Sharigh Tashil, though the comparatively small numbers of the people involved rendered the problem there easier to deal with. Here also the summer rains led to a great demand for money to replace bullocks and buy seed grains, and a sum of R800 was given from the Charitable Fund, in addition to considerable takkavi grants. In consequence, the people had fair autumn crops, and the rabi crop promises to be a good one.

5. The Dumars of Zarghun were in a very bad way, owing to the death of large numbers of their animals. The large flock-owners could manage to subsist on the produce of the animals left to them; but the smaller men, who frequently had lost their all, were in great straits. A sum of R596 from the Charitable Fund was distributed among these people in small sums, and did something towards enabling them to tide over the worst time. The abundant rains raised an ample grass crop all over the hills in the autumn, and since then matters have much improved.

6. In the Duki Tahsil, where there are large perennial streams, it was found that, though the scarcity had been severely felt, no gratuitous relief was absolutely necessary; all that was required were liberal takkavi grants. In Barkhan and Kohlu, however, the distress was wide-spread and very acute. In the Issiani circle of Barkhan, the crops had been an almost complete failure for the past two years, and other circles were nearly as bad. The people were in many cases subsisting on the roots of the dwarf palm, even those who were comparatively well-off had nothing to spare for charity, and the destitute and helpless people without bread-winners to support them, who in all Mahammadan communities subsist on such charity, were left totally unprovided for. It was necessary to keep these alive and also to help the poorer zemindars to replace the plough cattle swept away by the drought and to purchase seed for the *kharif* and *rabi* harvests. A sum of R245-14-0 from the Charitable Relief Fund was therefore applied to the relief of orphans, the aged and infirm, while R4,823 were granted to zemindars for the purchase of bullocks and seed as a supplement to large takkavi advances. The *kharif* crop was fair in Barkhan and very good in Kohlu, and the prospects of the *rabi* are reported to be excellent in both Tahsils.

7. The distribution of the grants from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was carried out by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sibi, and by myself in the Sibi Sub-Division, and by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Duki, in Barkhan and Kohlu. Great care was taken in selecting the cases deserving of gratuitous relief, full enquiry being made on the spot in all cases by officers not below the rank of Extra Assistant Commissioner. I think it may be claimed that the relief so generously given, reached the persons most in need of it, and that it has done much to relieve distress and to set on their feet again a large number of agriculturists who otherwise could hardly have recovered from the losses they suffered during the years of drought.

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE BENGAL BRANCH OF THE INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900.

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, was inaugurated at a public meeting held in Calcutta on the 16th February 1900, over which His Excellency the Viceroy presided. It was constituted on lines precisely similar to those on which the corresponding Fund of 1897 was based. A branch of the Fund for Bengal was formed at a meeting of the Bengal Members of the General Committee of the Central Fund, held on the 17th March, which was presided over by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. At that meeting a General and an Executive Committee were formed for Bengal. The General Committee included representatives not only from Calcutta, but from every Division and district of the Province. The Executive Committee consisted of 37 members, of whom 25 were non-official gentlemen, with the Hon'ble Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.I.E., Member of the Board of Revenue, as Chairman, and Mr. D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E., Collector of Customs, Calcutta, as Honorary Secretary. A list of the Members will be found in annexure A to this report. On Mr. Oldham's retirement from India on the 23rd November 1900, his successor on the Board of Revenue, the Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I., succeeded him as Chairman.

2. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the 4th April 1900, and it was decided that steps should be taken to form a Committee in each district of the Province for the collection of subscriptions that should be as strong and representative as possible and essentially non-official in character. All District Officers were accordingly invited in the Honorary Secretary's Circular No. 1 of the 20th April, which forms annexure B to this report, to call a public meeting at an early date for the formation of such District Committees. As the Province as a whole, with the exception of the Chota Nagpur and parts of the Orissa Divisions, had been blessed with agricultural prosperity, it was recognised that, except in three or four instances, the functions of the District Committees would be confined to the collection of subscriptions for charitable distribution in those Provinces and States of India which were afflicted with severe famine. In Bengal relief measures had eventually to be adopted only in four districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, namely, Ranchi, Palamau, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum. Their requirements in the matter of charitable relief were, however, entirely met by subscriptions collected within the Division itself, specially for the needs of those districts, and by donations collected in Calcutta from a dozen gentlemen of the Bar by the Hon'ble Mr. J. T. Woodroffe, amounting to Rs. 3,070, also specially intended for that Division. The apportionment of these contributions to each district was accordingly, following the precedent of 1897, left in the hands of the Commissioner, Mr. A. Forbes, C.S.I.

3. Prompt steps were taken in most districts to form Committees for the collection of subscriptions. All Commissioners had been invited to take the lead in this respect in the head-quarters districts of their Divisions, and most of them did so, Messrs. Savage and Williams taking special interest in the matter. In other districts the Collectors called public meetings, when they were themselves appointed Presidents of the District Committees that were formed, except in the following districts, where the gentlemen named below were appointed:—

Burdwan—Raja Bun Behari Kapur.
Hooghly—Babu Balaram Mullick.
Nadia—Major U. N. Mookherji, I.M.S.
Dinajpur—The Maharaja of Dinajpur.
Backergunge—Mr. C. W. E. Pittar (Judge).
Gaya—Mr. A. Ogilvy.
Muzaffarpur—Mr. E. Macnaghten.
Ranchi—Mr. F. B. Taylor (Judicial Commissioner).
Palamau—Raja Bhagwat Dyal Singh.

The Honorary Secretary of each was in almost every case a non-official, and an Honorary Treasurer was also appointed in most cases. The earliest districts to take action were Dinajpur, Faridpur, Dacca, Backergunge, Chittagong, Purnea, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum. A Committee was also promptly formed in Cooch Behar State under the auspices of His Highness the Maharaja, and remitted to the Bengal Branch a sum of Rs. 6,245.

In Purnea the Collector reported that he experienced much difficulty in securing members willing to act on the Committee. No Committee was appointed in Calcutta itself, as the Central Committee had, immediately on its formation, organized measures for making collections throughout the town, and had distributed collecting books in large numbers to Government offices, public bodies, mercantile firms and leading citizens. The Central Committee was asked to issue instructions for these books to be returned through the Provincial Committee; but it decided to retain the work in its own hands. The Central Committee was at the same time asked to record separately the large contributions it had already received or been promised from Bengal, or which might still come to it; but it considered it undesirable that this should be done, and thought that it would be sufficient to specify these in its final report.

In most districts Sub-Committees were also formed, and in a number of districts in Lower Bengal poor-boxes were put up in the various Courts and at the Registry Offices.

4. Annexed to this report will be found a statement (annexure C) showing the amount of subscriptions collected in Bengal through the agency of the District Committees, and also the local miscellaneous expenditure incurred. In the case of the Chota Nagpur Division, the amount of Rs. 3,070 referred to above as having been collected by the Hon'ble Mr. Woodroffe in Calcutta is included, and the expenditure on relief in that Division is also shown. The amount of Rs. 5,679 shown against the Head Office, Provincial Branch, Calcutta, includes the sum just mentioned; also Rs. 1,000 forwarded by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as part-proceeds of a military band performance given at the Eden Gardens on the 21st May 1900 to celebrate the relief of Mafeking, and sums aggregating Rs. 662 received direct from the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Apcar as representing all the fees that were payable to him for attending meetings of the Calcutta Corporation. Some other sums received from residents in Calcutta are also included. The expenditure shown against the same heading is that incurred by the Executive Committee in carrying on the whole of its work. The receipts include in the case of the following districts balances over from the Relief Fund of 1897, which had been collected for those districts, namely, Malda, Rs. 1,000; Chittagong, Rs. 1,561; and Hazaribagh, Rs. 500; but these are shown separately in the statement.

5. The total subscriptions collected by the Provincial and District Committees amounted to Rs. 3,36,016, of which Rs. 3,16,043 was for the needs of India generally, Rs. 1,060 for the Central Provinces (Rs. 1,000 of this being contributed by Mr. C. W. McMinn), and Rs. 18,908 for the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division in which relief operations were undertaken. If to the above be added the sum of about Rs. 7,29,944 received direct by the Central Committee from residents in Bengal (exclusive, however, of sums contributed by officers serving directly under the Government of India and by regiments stationed in Bengal), the total contributions of Bengal to the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, will be found to amount to Rs. 10,65,960. This is almost one-third of the total amount collected for the Fund in all India, which appears to be a little over 33 lakhs. The District Committees which collected over Rs. 10,000 were the following:—

	₹
Bhagalpur	24,891
Myemnsingh	21,714
Dacca	16,444
Tippera	15,179
Rangpur	14,286
Cuttack (with Angul and Tributary Mehals)	13,098
Gaya	12,843
24-Parganas	12,100
Darjeeling	11,580

Murshidabad	10,456
Burdwan	10,404
Midnapore	10,119
Monghyr	10,254

This statement, however, does not take into account the subscriptions sent direct to the Central Committee by individuals in these and other districts.

6. A statement is appended (annexure E) giving a list of all who subscribed Rs. 100 or more through the Provincial Committee to the Fund. Subscriptions of above Rs. 1,000 were received from the following:—

	₹
Tikari Raj, 9-anna estate, Gaya	10,000
Raja Padmanand Singh Bahadur, Sonthal Parganas	2,000
Raja Padmanand Singh of Banaili, Bhagalpur	1,000
Raja Padmanand Singh and Kumars Kalikanand Singh and Kirtyanand Singh, in Monghyr	2,000
Raja Padmanand Singh, in Malda	1,000
Kumar Kalikanand Singh, in Malda	1,000
The Banaili Raj, Purnea	2,000
His Highness Raja Radha Kishore Deb Barman Manikya Bahadur, of Hill Tippera	5,000
Maharaja Surjya Kanta Acharjya Chaudhury, Mymensingh	5,000
Raja Rajendra Narain Rai Bahadur, Dacca	5,000
Maharaja Sir Ravenesvar Prasad Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Gidhour, Monghyr	4,200
Maharaja Har Ballav Narain Singh Bahadur, of Sonbarsa, Bhagalpur	4,000
Maharani Beni Prasad Kuar, of Dumraon, Shahabad	3,500
Raja Promada Nath Roy of Dighapatia, Rajshahi	3,000
Mr. Tilakdhari Lal, Bhagalpur	2,500
Babu Jyot Kumar Mukherji, Hooghly and Howrah	2,050
Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, Murshidabad and Rangpur	2,000
Raja Ram Ranjan Chakravarti, Birbhum	2,000
Mahant Satis Chandra Giri, of Tarkesvar, Hooghly	1,500
W. Maling Grant, Esq., Bhagalpur	1,500
Babu Hem Chandra Chaudhury, Mymensingh	1,500
Syed Badshah Nawab, Patna	1,500
Rai Bonamali Rai Bahadur, Pabna	1,100

The following subscribed Rs. 1,000 each :—

The Hon'ble Mr. J. T. Woodroffe, Advocate-General of Bengal, Calcutta.
The Maharaja of Chota Nagpur, Ranchi.
Raja Narendra Lal Khan, of Narajole, Midnapore.
Rani Padma Sundari Debi, Birbhum.
J. Fairlie, Esq., Nadia.
Raja Ashutosh Nath Roy, Murshidabad.
Rao Jogendra Narain Roy, Murshidabad.
Rani Hemanta Kumari Devi, Rajshahi.
Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Roy, Rajshahi.
Raja Mahima Ranjan Rai Chaudhuri, Rangpur.
Raja Janaki Ballav Sen, Rangpur.
Maharani Sarat Sundari Barmani, Rangpur.
Nawab Syed Abdus Sobhan Chaudhuri, Bogra.
Babu Satis Chandra Chaudhuri, Mymensingh.
Rai Jogendra Kishore Rai Chaudhuri Bahadur, Mymensingh.
Srimati Dina Moni Chaudhrani, Mymensingh.
C. W. McMinn, Esq., Tippera.
Munshi Kazi Rayazuddin Ahmad, Tippera.
Babu Harihar Prasad, Shahabad.
Babu Bhudar Mall, Banker, Bhagalpur.
Babu Kali Krishna Thakur of Calcutta, Bhagalpur.
Rai Ganpat Singh Bahadur, Bhagalpur.
The Lachmipur estate, Bhagalpur.
Raja Sriram Chandra Bhunj Deo, Mohurbhanj, Orissa.
The Kanika estate, Cuttack.
Maharaja Dhanurjoy Bhunj Deo Bahadur, Keonjhur, Orissa.
Maharaja Mahendra Deo, Athmallik, Orissa.
Raja Jogendra Deo, Bod, Orissa.
Raja Baikantha Nath De Bahadur and Babu Satyendra Nath De, Balasore.
Babu Satrughan Dhabal Deb, Dalbhum; Singhbum.

Special mention may be made of a sum of Rs. 2,036-6 collected by Mr. Clarke, Manager of the Kamarhati Jute Mills in the 24-Parganas. The Jubilee Dramatic Club, Bhawanipur, gave a performance in the Corinthian Theatre, Calcutta, and contributed the proceeds, Rs. 167-4 to the Fund.

Printed lists of all subscriptions exceeding Rs. 5 were prepared from time to time, and forwarded to the various District Committees for distribution to the subscribers. Separate lists of subscriptions of Rs. 50 and over were sent to the public Press. The following English and Indian papers in Bengal were good enough to publish these lists free of charge:—

The *Englishman*, Calcutta.
The *Statesman*, Calcutta (abstracts).
Reis and Raiyet, Calcutta.
The *Dhaka Prakash*, Dacca.

It was considered that the separate list sent to each subscriber of Rs. 5 and above, through the District Committees, would be appreciated by them as a sufficient acknowledgment. All printing has been done at the Bengal Secretariat Press free of charge to the Fund.

7. The expenditure incurred in collecting the Provincial subscriptions amounted in all to Rs. 2,685. Of this, Rs. 926 represents the cost of the Head Office in Calcutta (establishment, Rs. 664; office expenses, Rs. 262); and Rs. 1,759 was the expenditure incurred by the various District Committees. The whole amounts to only ·79 per cent. of the contributions. The Head Office establishment consisted of only one clerk on Rs. 40 and two peons on Rs. 8 each per mensem, one of whom was, however, discharged in December. The following districts would appear to have carried on the work without incurring any expenditure charged to the Fund:—Birbhum, Bankura, Rajshahi, Dacca, Shahabad, Darbhanga, Malda and Puri; and the expenditure was nominal in Balasore, Sonthal Parganas, Monghyr, Rangpur and Faridpur.

8. Expenditure on relief was, as already stated, confined to four districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, namely, Ranchi, Palamau, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum. The following is a description of the country affected, taken from paragraph 7 of the Report of the Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund of 1897:—

"The country may be described as consisting of an ascending series of plateaux rising in successive terraces from 800 to 3,500 feet, separated from each other by ranges of hills and watered by numerous rivers flowing into the Mahanaddy on the one side and the Ganges on the other. In all the districts the country is much broken up by ravines, with cultivated valleys and rolling downs interspersed. The highest point in the Division is the Parasnath hill, a well-known Jain place of pilgrimage in Hazaribagh, which has an elevation of 4,479 feet above sea level. The Ranchi plateau, with an area of 4,500 square miles, has an average elevation of 2,100 feet, and the Hazaribagh plateau, 600 square miles in extent, is about the same level. The Palamau district, which is of comparatively recent formation, lies to the north and west of Ranchi, and consists of spurs thrown out from the Ranchi and Hazaribagh plateaux, and a tangled mass of broken hills and more or less open valleys, with an average height of 1,200 feet. The Manbhum district is hilly to the south, and also in the extreme north and west, where it borders on the Jamtara subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas, and on the Hazaribagh district. In the centre and to the east the country is flat and open and includes the valley of the Damuda.

"The population of the Division is scanty, averaging 128 to the square mile, though parts of Manbhum rise considerably above this figure. The inhabitants are mostly Hindus and aboriginals, many sections of the latter having become more or less Hinduized. Sonthals, who number 290,000, are found mostly in Hazaribagh. the north of Manbhum and Singhbhum, Mundas, Uraons, and Korwas, a semi-wild tribe, numbering altogether 880,000, are found chiefly in Ranchi and Singhbhum. The population includes also a greater proportion of Native Christians than any other part of Bengal, and all the principal Missions—Anglican, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and others—have local branches. The Division is a favourite recruiting ground for the Assam tea-gardens, and thousands of labourers leave it every year either under indenture or nominally as free emigrants.

"The soil is only moderately fertile, and the mineral wealth in which the Division abounds as yet gives employment to but few. Of the three chief crops, the winter rice is by far the most important, being more than two-thirds of the whole food-supply. The *bhadoi*, or rain crop, represents rather more than one-fourth, and the remainder is represented by the *rabi*, or spring crop, which is insignificant except in Palamau. Forest edible products, including the flower of the mahua tree, form a most valuable addition to the food-supply of the people, especially in the wilder and more hilly parts.

"With the exception of certain main roads, the communications are of a very primitive description, and consist of narrow bridle paths, along which lightly laden pack-bullocks

pick their leisurely way to distant marts. Traffic is also carried on by bullock carts, but these are rarely to be found off the metalled roads, and owing to the long distances to be travelled over, this is a very laborious and tedious mode of transporting produce. Palamau is particularly badly off in respect of communications, and in this district it became necessary at one period of the famine for Government to supplement the ordinary operations of trade by offering a bounty on importations of grain. The Bengal Nagpur railway, the only through line in the Division, traverses a very small corner on the south-east, but is of comparatively little use to the more distant places. The roads, also, such as they are, are frequently intercepted by hills, ravines and rivers which are unbridged and at certain seasons of the year unfordable."

9. The famine that occurred in Chota Nagpur in 1900 was due to a serious failure of the rains in August, September and October of the preceding year, resulting in exceedingly short harvests in Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Palamau. The rainfall for that period was deficient by 57·9, 59·9 and 59·6 per cent. in each of these districts respectively, and the harvests of the whole twelve months preceding the famine by 59·4, 54·4 and 44·4 per cent., respectively. In these districts the rainfall was a good deal worse than in the preceding famine year (1896) and, except in Palamau, where the result was somewhat better, the yield of the food-crops was also worse. In Singhbhum the conditions, though unfavourable, were somewhat better than in 1896, and the crop deficiency was only 31·2 per cent. In Manbhum there never arose any cause for anxiety.

10. The following is a brief summary of the relief operations undertaken by the Charitable Relief Fund in the Chota Nagpur Division. It was only in Ranchi and Palamau that Government relief chargeable to "Famine" had to be undertaken. In Hazaribagh and Singhbhum it was found that the only class who actually required relief were the beggars and other waifs and strays and helpless children, and for these the operations of the Charitable Relief Fund, almost entirely in the form of kitchen relief, sufficed. For the labouring class in these districts sufficient employment was provided by an expansion of ordinary public works, whilst cultivators were aided by loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. In Ranchi and Palamau regular famine relief works and the distribution of gratuitous relief from Government funds and subject to prescribed tests had to be organized, and these were supplemented by relief measures undertaken by the Charitable Fund. The latter comprised the distribution both of cooked food at kitchens and of weekly dry doles of grain; also of clothing to destitute persons and of free grants of money to cultivators unable to furnish proper security, and of final doles in cash to those who were in receipt of Government gratuitous relief at the close of the operations.

11. The total amount expended on relief from the Fund was, however, only Rs. 13,614. This was devoted to the four main objects which have been accepted as those on which private subscriptions can legitimately be expended in times of famine, so as not to overlap the relief operations for which Government are responsible. These are described in Annexure B to this report. On Object I (provision of additional comforts) Rs. 5,056 was expended; on Object II (maintenance of orphans) Rs. 696; on Object III (relief of the destitute of superior social standing) Rs. 2,870; and on Object IV (aid in starting afresh those who are left destitute at the close of famine) Rs. 4,563. Miscellaneous contingent expenditure to the amount of Rs. 429 was also incurred in the distribution of relief, especially in connection with kitchens. A statement is annexed to this report (annexure D), showing particulars of the expenditure in each district, classified in accordance with the returns prescribed by the Central Committee. In some cases there is doubt about the figures, especially those of Ranchi. It is explained that grants were given in that district to missionaries and others to distribute relief at different centres, and that accurate figures are not obtainable of the maximum number of individuals actually relieved. The following is a summary of the various forms of relief granted according to the prescribed classification.

Object I.—Clothing to the value of Rs. 747 was distributed to 1,338 persons, chiefly in Palamau, the expenditure per head being 8 annas 11 pies. Additional food and comforts were distributed at kitchens, and in Palamau at the Government Hospital, to 1,731 separate individuals at a cost of Rs. 3,099.

Of these, 240 were relieved for a fortnight or less, 416 for over a fortnight but less than a month, and 1,075 for more than a month. This form of relief was given for three months in Hazaribagh and Singhbhum, for four months in Palamau, and for seven months in Ranchi. The only district in which any addition was made to the Government dole was Ranchi, where relief, costing Rs. 23, was given to 40 persons. In this district a further sum of Rs. 1,187 is shown as spent in relieving 433 persons who worked on roads and tanks, the average daily cost per head being $3\frac{2}{3}$ annas for the 311 persons who were daily relieved on the average. Excluding these, the daily average number who received relief under Object I was 1,283 persons, and the average daily cost per head $12\frac{1}{2}$ pies.

Object II.—Subsidies, amounting to Rs. 236, were given for the support of 24 orphans in charge of private persons in Palamau and Ranchi, and in Hazaribagh a sum of Rs. 440 is shown as expended on the provision of extra food or comforts for orphans supported from State funds. The daily average number relieved was 168, and the average daily cost per head $8\frac{2}{3}$ pies.

Object III.—Among the various forms of relief granted to the poor of superior social standing, clothing to the value of Rs. 767 was given to 1,204 persons, or 10 annas 2 pies per head; doles, chiefly of grain, to the cost of Rs. 2,088, were distributed weekly to 1,741 individuals, and 6 persons are shown as receiving aid costing Rs. 15 at a cheap grain shop in Ranchi. The weekly doles were practically confined to Palamau and Ranchi: 402 persons were thus relieved for a period exceeding a fortnight, but not exceeding a month, and 1,339 for over a month. This form of relief extended over six months in both districts. The daily average number relieved was 1,572 persons, and the average daily cost of relief per head $6\frac{1}{4}$ pies.

Object IV.—To cultivators unable to give security for Government loans, gifts of money, amounting to Rs. 2,048, were granted for the purchase of seed-grain, etc. The number of persons so relieved was 669, so that each got on the average Rs. 3-0-11. Two artisans in Ranchi were aided at a cost of Rs. 20. Final doles, amounting to Rs. 2,495, were distributed at the close of relief operations to 4,612 persons who had been in receipt of Government relief, the average grant per head being thus 8 annas 7 pies. All these forms of relief were confined to Ranchi and Palamau.

12. In many of the reports which have been received from Commissioners and District Officers regarding the working of the District Committees, mention is made of gentlemen, both European and Indian, whose services in the raising of subscriptions or conducting the business of the Committees were regarded as meriting special acknowledgment. It is difficult to differentiate between one Division or district and another in selecting names for mention in this report, and in the case of a good many districts no reference at all is made to the services of individuals. Many of the gentlemen who have been named have, moreover, been apparently selected specially for their own liberal donations to the Fund. The more notable of these have already been specified in paragraphs 4 and 6 of this report.

The special thanks of the Executive Committee of the Bengal Branch of the Fund are due to Commissioners and District and Sub-divisional Officers generally. It would be invidious for the Committee to single out any of these: but the following were the Deputy Commissioners in charge of the districts where relief operations were undertaken in addition to the work of collecting subscriptions, and, except in the case of Ranchi, where the Chairman was Mr. F. B. Taylor, the Judicial Commissioner, they were also Chairmen of the Committees formed in their respective districts:—

Mr. H. C. Streatfeild, I.C.S., Ranchi.
„ G. Balthasar, I.C.S., Palamau.
„ F. C. French, I.C.S., Hazaribagh.
„ W. B. Thomson, I.C.S., Singhbhum.

The gentlemen belonging to these districts who are named below also arried out duties connected with the administration of charitable relief in ddition to the less onerous and responsible work of collecting and transmitting

subscriptions. Subject to the remarks already made, the following are the names of the gentlemen whom the Executive Committee would select for special mention on such information as is at their command :—

Burdwan	Raja Bun Behary Kapur, Chairman.
	Babu Hira Lal Barman, Honorary Assistant Secretary.
Birbhum	Babu Jnanendra Nath Mukherji, Munsif of Bolpur.
	„ Atul Chandra Batabyal, Munsif of Dubrajpur.
Bankura	„ Raj Narayan Chandradhurya of Maliara.
Midnapore	Mr. K. B. Dutt, Barrister-at-Law, Honorary Secretary.
	Mr. Sanders, Bengal Nagpur railway, Kharagpur.
Hooghly	Mirza Mazharul Anwar, Honorary Secretary.
24-Parganas	Rai Money Lal Banerji Bahadur, Honorary Secretary.
	Chairman, Garden Reach Municipality.
	Ditto, Baranagore ditto.
	Ditto, Bhatpara ditto.
	Ditto, Cossipore ditto.
	Ditto, Kamarhati ditto.
	Mr. Clarke, Manager, Kamarhati Jute Mills.
	The 2nd Munsif, Baruipur.
Murshidabad	Rai Srinath Pal Bahadur, Honorary Secretary.
Khulna	The Accountant, District Board.
Dinajpur	The Maharaja of Dinajpur, Chairman.
	The Munsif of Phulbaria.
	The Sub-Registrar of Birganj.
Jalpaiguri	Babu Raj Krista Das, Manager of His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Bihar's Chaklajat Estate.
Darjeeling	The Rev. R. Kilgour, Superintendent of the Scotch Mission.
Rangpur	Babu Priya Nath Moitra, Magistrate's Sarishtadar, Honorary Secretary.
Mymensingh	Babu Asutosh Dutta, Honorary Secretary.
Backergunge	Mr. N. Gupta, Barrister-at-Law, and Babu Nibaran Chandra Das, Joint Honorary Secretaries.
Tippera	Syed Husain Haidar Chaudhuri, Honorary Secretary.
Chittagong	Babu Nabin Chandra Das, Honorary Secretary.
	Rai Nitya Nanda Rai Bahadur, Honorary Treasurer.
Patna	Babu Ram Anugrah Narain Singh, Deputy Magistrate, Honorary Secretary.
	Khan Bahadur Shaikh Bahadur Ali Khan.
Saran	Babu Tarak Nath Dutta, Honorary Secretary.
Muzaffarpur	„ Jogendra Chandra Mukherji.
	Mr. E. Macnaghten, Honorary Secretary.
	Dr. Hindmarsh, Honorary Treasurer.
	Mr. T. Barclay, Motipur.
Monghyr	Babu Shiva Nandan Prasad Singh, Honorary Secretary.
Bhagalpur	Raja Shib Chandra Banerji, Honorary Secretary.
Purnea	Babu Jagdam Sahai, Deputy Collector, Honorary Secretary.
Sonthal Parganas	Babu Beni Madhab Chakravartti, Honorary Secretary.
	Babu Panchanan Ghose, Rajmahal.
	„ Pashupati Basu, ditto.
Cuttack	„ Sudan Chandra Naik, Honorary Secretary.
Hazaribagh	Mr. J. Bowman and Babu Girendra Kumar Gupta, Joint Honorary Secretaries.
Ranchi	Mr. W. S. Coutts, Joint Magistrate, Honorary Secretary.
	Mr. Ebrahim Ahmad, Munsif, Lohardaga.
Palamau	Raja Bhagwat Dyal Singh of Chainpur, Chairman.
	Dr. Moti Lal Mukherji, Honorary Secretary.
Manbhum	Babu Probhat Nath Rai, Honorary Secretary.
	Mirza Bedar Bukht, Honorary Secretary, Gobindpur.
Singhbhum	Babu Mohini Mohan Ghose, Honorary Secretary.
Cooch Behar State	„ Hari Das Mukherjee, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

The Committee likewise desire to express their acknowledgments of the services rendered by all other gentlemen who discharged the duties of Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers of the various District Committees. Their thanks are also due to Babu Priyå Lal Sen, Cashier of the Calcutta Custom House, and, during his absence on leave, to the Deputy Cashier, Babu Bepin Bihari Dey, who discharged the functions of Honorary Treasurer to the Bengal Branch of the Fund.

D. J. MACPHERSON,

Honorary Secretary.

May 1901.

ANNEXURE A.

General Committee of the Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900.

The Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, Q.C., K.C.I.E., Chief Justice.
" " Justice Sir H. T. Prinsep, KT.
" " Mr. Justice R. F. Rampini.
" " " " C. H. Hill.
" " " " R. Harrington.
" " " " S. G. Sale.
" " " " J. F. Stevens.
" " " " J. Stanley, Q.C.
" " " " Chunder Madhab Ghose.
" " " " Ameer Ali, C.I.E.
" " " " Guru Das Banerji, D.L.
" " " " J. Pratt.
" " " J. T. Woodroffe.
" " Mr. B. L. Gupta.
" " Sir G. H. P. Evans, K.C.I.E.
" Most Rev. the Lord Bishop of Calcutta.
" Ven'ble Archdeacon A. E. Stone, B.A.
" Very Rev. Father Marchal.
" Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee.
" " " W. B. Oldham, C.I.E.
" " " J. A. Bourdillon, C.S.I.
" " " F. A. Slacke.
" " " E. N. Baker.
" " " R. B. Buckley.
Mr. D. Joscelyne.
" A. Forbes, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Buckland, B.A., C.I.E.
Mr. H. C. Williams.
" C. R. Marindin.
" L. Hare, C.I.E.
" H. Savage.
" C. R. Marriott.
" C. J. S. Faulder.
" E B. Harris.
" A. H. James (Commissioner of Police, Calcutta).
" D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E. (Collector of Customs, Calcutta).
" A. B. Miller.
" W. R. Bright.
" C. G. H. Allen.
The Hon'ble Rai Durgagati Banerji Bahadur, C.I.E.
" " Babu Surendranath Banerji.
" " Raja Sashi Shekhareswar Roy Bahadur of Tahirpur.
" " Raja Ranajit Sinha Bahadur of Nashipur.
" " Shahibzada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, C.I.E.
" " Mr. J. G. Apcar.
" " Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya, M.A., D.L., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.
" " Babu Boikanta Nath Sen.
" " Mr. H. Elworthy.
Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Nipendro Narain Bhup of Cooch Behar, G.C.I.E., C.B.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Raveneshwar Prashad Singh of Gidhour, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Rameshwar Singh of Darbhanga.
" " Nawab Bahadur Sir Khwaja Ahsanullah, K.C.I.E.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohun Tagore, K.C.S.I.
" " " Norendra Krishna, K.C.I.E.
Maharaja Durga Charan Laha, C.I.E.
Raja Sir Sourendra Mohan Tagore, KT., C.I.
" Peary Mohan Mukerjee, M.A., B.L., C.S.I.
" Binaya Krishna.
" Sun Behari Kapur.
" Shew Bux Bagla.
Babu Jatra Mohun Sen.
" Tarini Kumar Ghosh, B.A.
Prince Kamar Kadar Mirza Abid Ali Bahadur.
Nawab Bahadur Syud Amir Hossein, C.I.E.
Khan Bahadur Delawar Hossen Ahmed, B.A.
" " Maulvi Seraj ul-Islam.
" " A. F. M. Abdur Rahman.
" " Maulvi Muhammad Yusuf.
Shams-ul-Ulama Maulvi Ahmed.
Sahebzada Ahmed Hossain Khan.
Maulvi Golam Hossain Ariff.
Hajee Mahamed Abdoor Ruzzack.
Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E.
" Nilmani Mukerjea, M.A., B.L.
Maharaj Kumar Prodyat Kumar Tagore.
Kumar Dinendra Narain Roy.
Rai Raj Kumar Sarbadhikari, Bahadur.
" Badri Das, Bahadur.
Dr. Mohendra Lal Sarkar, C.I.E.
" Rash Bihari Ghosh, M.A., C.I.E.
Babu Joy Gobind Law, C.I.E.
Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Barrister-at-Law.
" Lal Mohan Ghose, "
" A. M. Bose, "
" N. N. Ghose, "
Babu Kali Nath Mitter.
" Nalin Bihari Sircar.
" Norendra Nath Sen.
" Romanath Ghose.
" Jogendra Chandra Ghose.
" Kali Kissen Tagore.
" Charu Chandra Mullick.
" Sita Nath Roy.
" Pashupati Natha Basu.
" Saligram Singh.
" Damodar Das Barman.
" Ganesh Chunder Chunder.
" Nobin Chand Boral.
" Chandi Lal Singh.
" Janaki Nath Roy.
" Kanai Lal Khan.
Sir P. Playfair, KT., C.I.E.
Mr. A. H. Wallis.
" W. A. Bankier.
" W. Parsons.
" A. P. Rodocanachi.
" H. C. Eggar.
" A. J. Fraser Blair.
" W. D. Cruickshank.
" R. D. Mehta, C.I.E.
" J. H. Apjohn.
" C. E. Smyth.
The Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur.
Mr. M. C. Turner.
" G. H. Sutherland.
" A. G. Apcar.
" J. Gemmell.
" Cairns Deas.
" A. K. Muir.
" C. H. Wilkie.
" D. McLaren Morrison.
" W. B. Colville.
" J. A. Anderson.
" A. A. Apcar.
" J. Davenport.
" J. G. Dickson.
" G. R. Johnston.
" A. Ker.
" C. D. Stewart.
" C. Jenkins.
" G. R. Cheetham.
" W. J. Bradshaw.
" J. H. Lewes.
" J. S. Fraser.
" C. F. Larmour.
" W. H. Phelps.
" C. P. Hill, Barrister-at-Law.
" W. Garth, "
" H. M. Rustomji.
" Paul Knight.
" S. Tremearne.
" H. G. Fidler.
" C. A. Martin.
" J. C. Wilson.
" G. Hennessy.
" D. Currie.
" T. R. Wynne.

Mr. H. Bateson.
„ F. A. Moller.
The Revd. Dr. K. S. Macdonald.
„ „ E. F. Brown.
„ „ J. Taylor.
„ „ D. Reid, M.A.
Mr. J. G. Womack.
„ C. R. Hills.
„ J. P. Thomas.
„ L. Daniell.
„ Gilbert S. Henderson.
„ C. R. Orr.
„ J. D. Nimmo.
„ W. R. T. Aitken.
„ N. I. Sassoon.
„ R. M. Cohen.
„ C. E. Greenway.
„ G. G. Anderson.
„ D. Yule.
Dr. G. R. Ferris.
Mr. H. M. Ross.
„ C. C. Robinson.
„ G. B. McNair.
„ C. E. Guzdar.
„ W. Coates.
„ F. G. Mayne.
„ J. B. Lee.
„ E. Freyvogel.
„ P. E. Cameron.
„ W. Shirreff.
„ H. J. Rudd-Rainey.
„ J. Rudd-Rainey.
„ J. Fraser-Forbes.
„ R. J. Harrison.
„ A. Wernicke.
„ G. L. Garth.
„ H. L. Weatherall.
„ W. J. Howard.
„ J. Hodding.
„ T. R. Filgate.
„ J. Wilson.
„ L. D. Reid.
„ R. Lockhart.
„ T. Barclay.
„ E. Macnaghten.
„ G. T. Collingridge.
„ G. L. Richardson.
„ G. R. Toomey.
„ C. R. Hay-Webb.
„ J. R. Lowis.
„ C. H. Crowdy.
„ H. A. Christian.
„ W. M. Grant.
„ F. Christian.
„ C. J. Shillingford.

BURDWAN DIVISION.

Burdwan	Maharaj Kumar Bijoy Chand Mahtab.
	Kumar Dakshineswar Malia (Raniganj).
	Babu Chakhan Lal Roy } (Chak-
	„ Lalit Mohan Roy } dighi.)
	Maulvi Lutfur Rahman.
Birbhum	Raja Ram Runjun Chukrabutty Bahadur.
Midnapore	Raja Jyoti Prosad Gorgu (Maisadal).
	„ Narendro Lall Khan (Narajole).
	Babu Makund Lall Roy.
	„ Okhoy Narain Banerjee.
	„ Dhanendra Chunder Mukerjee.
	Maulvi Osman Ali.
	„ Syud Mahamad Khairat Ali.
	Syud Abdul Jabar Ali Kadri.
Hooghly	Khan Bahadur Saiyid Ashrufudin Ahmed.
	Babu Raj Kissen Banerjee.
	„ Janokey Nath Mookerjee.
	„ Satya Dyal Banerjee.
	„ Hem Chunder Gossain.
	„ Nanda Lal Gossain.

BURDWAN DIVISION—*concluded.*

Howrah	Rai Dr. Kedar Nath Chatterjee Bahadur (Serampore).
	„ Abinash Chunder Banerjee Bahadur (Bally).
	„ Narsing Dutt Bahadur.
	„ Khiroda Prosad Pal Bahadur.
	„ Kedar Nath Koondoo Chowdry Bahadur.

PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

24-Parganas	Kumar Satish Chandra Singh.
	Syud Ahmed Ali.
	Babu Girija Prosunno Mookerjee (Gobordanga).
	„ Sarat Chandra Singh.
	„ Grish Chunder Ghosal (Naihati).
	Rai Yatindra Nath Chowdhury (Barabanagar).
Nadia	Maharaja Khittish Chunder Roy Bahadur.
	Rai Dwarka Nath Bhattacharjee Bahadur.
	Babu Nuffer Chunder Pal Chowdhry.
	„ Upendra Lal Mukerjee.
	„ Chandra Nath Roy.
	Mollah Khoda Dad.
	Maulvi Syud Wahinullah.
Murshidabad	Nawab Bahadur Sir Ali Kudr Syud Hussan Ali, G.C.I.E.
	„ Bahadur Syud Zainool Abidin.
	Maharaja Mahindra Chandra Nandi of Kasimbazar.
	Maharaj Kumar Banwari Ananda Deb.
	Raja Ashutoshnath Roy of Kasimbazar.
	Khan Bahadur Khandkhar Fuzl Rubbee.
	Rai Shetab Chand Nahar Bahadur.
	„ Budh Singh Dudhuria Bahadur.
	„ Mani Lal Nahar Bahadur.
	„ Hakim Kadr Kaikun Mirza.
Jessore	Raja Promotho Bhussan Deb Roy
	Maulvi Syud Ahmadullah.
	Munshi Menhajuddin.
Khulna	Babu Girija Nath Roy Chowdhry (Satkhira).

RAJSHAHI DIVISION.

Rajshahi	Maharaja Jagadendro Nath Roy.
	Raja Pramada Nath Roy.
	Kumar Jagendro Nath Roy.
	Chaudhuri Hefazutullah.
	Syud Trafazzul Hossein.
Dinajpur	Maharaja Girija Nath Roy.
	Rai Radhagobindo Roy Sahib Bahadur.
	Maulvi Yaquinuddin Ahmed.
Darjeeling	Raja Tendook Pulger.
	Rai Lama Ugyen Gyatsho Bahadur.
	Babu Mohendra Nath Banerjee.
Rangpur	Raja Mahima Runjun Roy Chowdhuri.
	„ Janaki Ballav Sen.
	Maulvi Syud Abdul Futtah.
	Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdul Majid Chowdhury.
Bogra	Nawab Saiyid Abdus Sobhan Chaudhuri.
	Babu Beni Madhub Chaki.
	„ Uma Kanta Ghatak.
Pabna	Rai Banamali Roy Bahadur.
	Babu Ambica Charan Moitra.
	Maulvi Rashiuddin Nabi.

DACCA DIVISION.

Dacca .	Raja Rajendra Narayan Roy Chowdry Bahadur.
	„ Srinath Roy.
	Kumar Priya Sunkur Roy, Jeota.
	Rai Iswar Chandra Sil Bahadur.
	Babu Parbati Sankar Chaudhuri.
	Khaja Mahamad Sheriff.
	Maulvi Syud Mahamad Shah.
Mymensingh ...	Maharaja Kumud Chandra Sing.
	„ Suryyakant Acharyya.
	Kumar Upendra Chandra Chaudhry.
	Rai Jogendro Kishore Rai Chowdhry Bahadur.
	„ Radha Ballabh Chowdhry Bahadur.
	Babu Jogendra Nath Acharjee Chowdhry.
	Syud Nawab Ali Chaudhuri.
	Mr. Abdul Haleem Khan, Kishorganj.
	Maulvi Hamiduddin.
	Munshi Hamidur Rahman.
Faridpur .	Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syududdin Ahmed.
	Babu Chandra Kumar Roy.
Backergunge .	Mr. Behari Lall Roy.
	Khan Bahadur Syud Moazzim Hossein.
	Maulvi Mahammad Wazid.

CHITTAGONG DIVISION.

Tippera .	Nawab Sahiba Faizunnissa Chaudhrani.
	Maulvi Tazel Islam.
Noakhali .	Babu Tarak Chandra Guha.
	Maulvi Bazlar Rahim Khan Bahadur.

PATNA DIVISION.

Patna .	Syud Khursud Nawab of Patna.
	Shams-ul-Ulama Maulvi Syad Imdad Imam.
	Khan Bahadur Syed Fuzl Imam.
	„ „ Sheik Bahadur Ali Khan.
	„ „ Maulvi Saiyid Nasiruddin Ahmed.
	Rai Rai Radha Krishna Bahadur.
	Mr. S. M. Sharf-ud-din.
Gaya .	Khan Bahadur Kazi Furzund Ahmad.
	Rai Baij Nath Singh Bahadur.
	Maulvi Karim Bux.
	Mr. Abdul Halim.
	Syud Shah Ata Hossein.
Shahabad .	Maharani Beni Pershad Koer (Dumraon).
	Raja Raj Rajeswari Prasad Singh.
	Rai Sankar Deyal Singh Bahadur.
	Kazi Zahur Alam.
	Babu Chaturbhuj Sahai.
	„ Mahanand Sahai.
	Shah Ata Hussain.
Saran .	Maharani Gayanamjari Kuari of Hatwa.
	Rai Mohabeer Prosad Shah Bahadur.
Champaran .	Maharani Janki Kuer of Bettiah.
Darbhanga .	Rai Ganga Pershad Singh Bahadur.
	Babu Talapat Singh.
	„ Ramdhari Lal.
	Maulvi Ashaf Ali Khan.
	„ Muhammad Abdullah.

BHAGALPUR DIVISION.

Monghyr .	Raja Ram Narayan Singh Bahadur.
	Rai Medini Pershad Bahadur.
	„ Kamaleshwari Pershad Singh Bahadur.
	Shah Muhammad Yakub.
	Babu Jamna Parshad.
Bhagalpur .	Maharaja Bahadur Harballabh Narayan Singh, C.I.E.
	Raja Shib Chandra Banerji.
	Rai Surji Narain Singh Bahadur.
	„ Ganpat Singh Sahib.
	Maulvi Abdul Mazeed.
Purnea .	Raja Pudmanund Singh Bahadur.
Malda .	Maulvi Azumand Khan Chaudhuri.

ORISSA DIVISION.

Cuttack .	Kumar Jadunath Deo.
	Rai Hari Ballabh Bose Bahadur.
Balasore .	Raja Baikunth Nath Dey Bahadur.
Puri .	The Raja of Parikud.
	Raja Mokoondo Deb.
	Rai Bhagbat Mahanty Bahadur.

CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

Hazaribagh .	Raja Saroda Narain Singh.
	Rai Jadoo Nath Mukerjee Bahadur.
Ranchi .	Maharaja Protab Oodey Nath Sahi Deo.
Palamau .	Rai Thakurai Bhagavat Dayal Singh Bahadur.
	„ „ Gobind Pershad Singh Bahadur.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR BENGAL.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.I.E., *Chairman.*
„ „ „ J. T. Woodroffe.
„ „ „ Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose.
Mr. A. H. James.
Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohan Tagore, K.C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, C.S.I.
„ „ „ F. A. Slacke.
„ „ „ E. N. Baker.
„ „ „ Justice Guru Das Banerjee, D.L.
Mr. G. H. Sutherland.
„ C. E. Smyth.
„ J. Gemmell.
Babu Nalin Behari Sirkar.
„ Gonesh Chandra Chandra.
„ Norendro Nath Sen.
Nawab Bahadur Syed Amir Hossain, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee Bahadur, C.I.E.
Mr. W. R. Bright.
Babu Sita Nath Roy.
Maulvi Muhammed Yusuf, Khan Bahadur.
Mr. H. Bateson.
„ W. A. Bankier.
Maharaja Sir Norendro Krishna Bahadur, K.C.I.E.
Mr. W. Parsons.
The Hon'ble Babu Surendro Nath Banerjee.
Raja Shew Bux Bagla.
Mr. W. D. Cruickshank.
„ R. D. Mehta, C.I.E.
„ W. J. Bradshaw.
Babu Kali Nath Mitter.
Mr. T. R. Wynne.
„ A. A. Apcar.
„ A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
„ C. G. H. Allen, C.S.
„ D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E., *Member and Honorary Secretary.*

ANNEXURE B.

Circular No. 1, dated Custom House, Calcutta, the 20th April 1900.

From—D. J. MACPHERSON, Esq., C.I.E., Honorary Secretary, Bengal Branch, Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund,

To—The District Magistrate / The Deputy Commissioner of

I am desired by the Executive Committee of the Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund to invite your assistance in forming a District Committee in the district of for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the alleviation of distress among the famine-stricken portion of the population of India.

2. The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, was constituted at a public meeting held in Calcutta on the 16th February last, over which His Excellency the Viceroy presided. At that meeting the Resolutions quoted in the margin were unanimously passed, and a General Committee was formed of which Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, consented to be Patron and the President is His Excellency the Viceroy, with the Governors, Lieutenant-Governors and Chief Commissioners of the various Provinces of India as Vice-Presidents. A Central Executive Committee was formed at the same time, of which the Chairman is the Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, K.C.I.E., Chief Justice of Bengal. A Branch of the Fund for Bengal was formed at a meeting of the Bengal members of the General Fund held on the 17th ultimo, which was presided over by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. At that meeting a General and an Executive Committee were formed for Bengal, and I enclose lists of those who were on that occasion invited to become members of each. The Chairman of the Bengal Committee is, you will observe, the Hon'ble Mr. W. B. Oldham, C.I.E. The proceedings of the meetings held on the 16th February and 17th March have been published in the press and will doubtless have been perused by you.

RESOLUTION:—That the meeting recognises the fact that the time has come when a Charitable Fund should be formed for the relief of distress in the famine-stricken districts of India; that the need of relief is more urgent than it was in 1897, such relief being supplementary of the operations of Government, and designed to meet cases not clearly or adequately covered by these operations; and that to this end subscriptions should be invited from the well-to-do throughout this country, and contributions from abroad be thankfully received.

RESOLUTION:—That this meeting accepts the statement of the objects to which private subscriptions may legitimately be devoted, as set forth by the Government in the *Gazette of India* of the 9th January 1897, and the organisation there suggested for the collection and administration of subscriptions to the Fund: and *resolves* that a General Committee composed of the following gentlemen be appointed with power to add to their number, and to appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Fund.

3. The Bengal Executive Committee now trust that you will be good enough to call a public meeting at an early date for the formation of a Committee for your district, which, they hope, may be as strong and representative as possible and should be essentially non-official in character. With possibly one or two exceptions, the functions of the District Committees in Bengal will happily be confined to collecting subscriptions and transmitting them to Calcutta.

The Province, as a whole, has been blessed during the past year with agricultural prosperity, although parts of the Chota Nagpur and Orissa Divisions have not been so fortunate.

A very great part of the rest of India is, however, suffering from a famine of unparalleled magnitude, and in much of it the intensity is very acute, owing to the unprecedented recurrence of severe famine within the short space of two years. At the present moment, the appalling total of over five million people are being kept alive by State relief in British India and in Native States; and but for timely and ample measures taken by the Government, it is certain that the mortality would have been enormous. The State accepts the duty of preserving human life, but, with due regard to the interests of the general tax-payer, it cannot in other respects alleviate the manifold suffering that prevails in famine-stricken areas or replace, in the case of those who are not in a position to repay loans, the plough cattle that have perished and the seed grain that has been consumed. There is ample scope for private charity in rendering the lives which State action preserves more worth living. Certain parts of Bengal experienced the benefit of such charity three years ago; and when she prospers while others suffer, it is peculiarly incumbent on her to give of her prosperity to relieve the distress that prevails elsewhere. To quote the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, "there is in the present case a peculiar reason for a generous "response in this part of the country. While no rain has fallen elsewhere, Bengal has enjoyed "a full share. The suffering of others has even proved your gain; for the Bengal cultivators "have realised for their surplus crops a price that in ordinary times they would not have "touched. Apart from this, however, was there ever a case in which the rich man out of his "abundance should more freely give to the poor man in his misery? If any rich man in this "city is in any doubt as to whether he should subscribe, I would gladly give him a railway "ticket to a famine district and take what he chose to give me on his return. He might go "with a hard heart, but he would come back with a broken one. Nor need any poor man "desist from offering his mite. A mite to him may be almost a fortune to the starving. To "each of us, therefore, the call should come: to every one, European or Native, official, "merchant or professional man, it may equally appeal. In yielding to it, we shall be "obeying a summons that lies at the root of all religion and is the consecration of our common "humanity."

4. I enclose a memorandum describing the objects of the Fund (Enclosure C). Subscriptions should be paid into the District Treasury to the credit of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, and should be remitted at the close of each month by remittance transfer receipt at par to the Bank of Bengal, Calcutta, for credit to the "Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund," intimation of the remittance being at the same time sent to me. Subscribers may wish their donations devoted (*a*) to the needs of all parts of India which may be distressed, or (*b*) specially to meet the needs of any particular Province or State. These should be distinguished in the monthly account to be submitted to me. I annex a form of that account (Enclosure D), and it is hoped that it may be possible to despatch it by the 7th of each month, as the Central Committee are very desirous of receiving the Provincial statement as early as possible. It should be accompanied by a list of all subscriptions received during the month. This list will be published in the press.

5. Be good enough to communicate to me in due course a list of the members of your District Committee, with the names of the Chairman and Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Enclosure A to Circular No. 1—General Committee of the Bengal Branch of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

[Printed as annexure A to this Report.]

Enclosure B to Circular No. 1—Executive Committee for Bengal.

[Printed in annexure A to this Report.]

Enclosure C to Circular No. 1—Objects of the Fund.

Government fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with it, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organized for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially, private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects :—

Firstly: *In supplementing the subsistence ration, which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing for the aged or infirm, for patients in hospitals, for children and the like.*

As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life.

Secondly: *In providing for the maintenance of orphans.*

Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves.

Thirdly: *In relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official enquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of, the destitution which is t be relieved.*

The feeling of the sacredness of the 'purdah' or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organization to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty the existence of distress of this nature.

Fourthly: *In restoring to their original position those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*

The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer.

Enclosure D to Circular No. 1—Form of Cash Account, Bengal Branch of Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF

Cash Account for the month of 1900.

RECEIPTS.	Rs. A. P.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs. A. P.
1. Opening balance ... ... 2. Subscriptions received during the month.		1. Remittances to Bank of Bengal, Calcutta. 2. Local contingent expenditure ... 3. Balance in hand	
3. Total		4. Total	

Memorandum.

	Up to close of preceding month.	During month of	TOTAL.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
I.—Subscriptions received for expenditure in particular Provinces or States, viz :— (1) (2) (3), &c. Total			
II.—Amount of above remitted to Bank of Bengal			
III.—Subscriptions received for needs of India generally			
IV.—Amount of above (excluding local contingent expenditure amounting to Rs.), remitted to Bank of Bengal.			
V.— Total ... { Subscriptions received ... ... / Remitted to Bank of Bengal			

ANNEXURE C.

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900.

Statement showing the contributions received and expenditure incurred by each District Committee in Bengal.

N. B.—This is exclusive of the large amount of contributions, aggregating about Rs. 7,29,944, made direct to the Central Committee by residents in Bengal.

DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS.	SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.			Additional grants received for expenditure on relief.	Other receipts.	Total receipts.	Local establishment and office expenditure.	Net amount of contributions made by each district to the Fund.	EXPENDED ON CHARITABLE RELIEF.					
	For the needs of India generally.	For particular Provinces.							Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.	Contingent expenditure connected with distribution of relief.	Total expenditure on relief.
		Province.	Amount.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
BENGAL.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
BURDWAN.														
Burdwan	10,404	...	...	...	...	10,404	97	10,307	...	...	...	...	...	...
Birbhum	7,084	...	...	...	...	7,084	...	7,084	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bankura	2,411	...	...	...	...	2,411	...	2,411	...	...	...	...	...	...
Midnapore	10,119	...	...	...	...	10,119	96	10,023	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hooghly	8,872	...	...	...	...	8,872	48	8,824	...	...	...	...	...	...
Howrah	1,724	...	...	...	...	1,724	5	1,719	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	40,614	...	...	...	...	40,614	246	40,368	...	...	...	...	...	...
PRESIDENCY.														
24-Pargana	12,100	...	...	...	...	12,100	167	11,933	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nadia	5,550	...	...	...	...	5,550	...	5,550	...	...	...	...	...	...
Murshidabad	10,456	...	...	...	...	10,456	19	10,437	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jessore	7,284	...	...	...	...	7,284	23	7,261	...	...	...	...	...	...
Khulna	3,757	...	...	...	...	3,757	175	3,582	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	39,147	...	...	...	...	39,147	384	38,763	...	...	...	...	...	...

ANNEXURE C—*concluded*

Divisions and Districts.	Subscriptions received.			Additional grants received for expenditure on relief.	Other receipts.	Total receipts.	Local establishment and office expenditure.	Net amount of contributions made by each district to the Fund.	Expended on charitable relief.					
	For the needs of India generally.	For particular Provinces.							Object I.	Object II.	Object III.	Object IV.	Contingent expenditure connected with distribution of relief.	Total expenditure on relief.
		Province.	Amount.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
BENGAL—*concluded.*	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
RAJSHAHI.														
Rajshahi	9,014	...	...	...	...	9,014	...	9,014	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dinajpur	4,732	...	...	...	...	4,732	49	4,683	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jalpaiguri	3,830	...	...	...	...	3,830	23	3,807	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darjeeling	11,580	...	...	...	...	11,580	184	11,396	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rangpur	14,286	...	...	...	...	14,286	2	14,284	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bogra	4,688	...	...	...	...	4,688	11	4,677	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pabna	3,639	...	...	...	...	3,639	21	3,618	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	51,769	...	...	...	...	51,769	290	51,310	...	...	...	...	...	...
COOCH BEHAR STATE	6,245	...	...	...	...	6,245	...	6,245(6)	...	...	...	...	...	...
DACCA.														
Dacca	16,444	...	...	...	...	16,444	...	16,444	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mymensingh	21,714	...	...	...	...	21,714	76	21,638	...	...	...	...	...	...
Faridpur	1,736	...	...	...	...	1,736	3	1,733	...	...	...	...	...	...
Backergunge	2,892	...	...	...	...	2,892	41	2,851(7)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	42,786	...	...	...	...	42,786	120	42,666	...	...	...	...	...	...
CHITTAGONG.														
Tippera	14,179	Central Provinces.	1,000	...	...	15,179	89	15,090	...	...	...	...	...	...
Noakhali	993	...	...	...	...	993	5	988	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chittagong	2,838	...	...	...	1,561(10)	4,399	9	4,390	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	18,010	...	1,000	...	1,561	20,571	103	20,468	...	...	...	...	...	...
BIHAR.														
PATNA.														
Patna	5,769	...	...	...	...	5,769	50	5,719	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gaya	12,843	...	...	...	...	12,843	14	12,829	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shahabad	6,956	...	...	...	...	6,956	...	6,956	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saran	4,390	...	...	...	...	4,390	39	4,351	...	...	...	...	...	...
Champaran	4,082	...	...	...	...	4,082	12	4,070	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muzaffarpur	9,706	...	...	...	...	9,706	10	9,696	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darbhanga	1,282	...	...	...	...	1,282	...	1,282	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	45,028	...	...	...	...	45,028	125	44,903	...	...	...	...	...	...
BHAGALPUR.														
Monghyr	10,254	...	...	...	...	10,254	2	10,252	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bhagalpur	24,891	...	...	...	...	24,891	59	24,832	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purnea	6,200	...	...	...	...	6,200	22	6,178(8)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malda	3,194	...	...	...	1,000(11)	4,194	...	4,194	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sonthal Parganas ...	7,656	...	...	...	...	7,656	1	7,655	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	52,195	...	...	...	1,000	53,195	84	53,111	...	...	...	...	...	...
ORISSA.														
ORISSA.														
Cuttack and Angul ...	13,098	...	...	...	...	13,098	59	13,039	...	...	...	...	...	...
Balasore	3,091	...	...	...	...	3,091	...	3,091	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puri	575	...	...	...	...	575	...	575	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	16,764	...	...	...	...	16,764	59	16,705	...	...	...	...	...	...
CHOTA NAGPUR.														
CHOTA NAGPUR.														
Hazaribagh	271	Chota Nagpur.	524	...	500(1)	2,968	71	2,897	591	440	50	...	98	1,179
		Hazaribagh	1,673											
Ranchi	...	Ranchi ...	3,668	4,050(2)	...	7,718	35	3,633	1,847	35	1,102	4,264	77	7,325
Palamau	...	Palamau ...	2,874	3,025(3)	15(4)	5,914	214	2,660	2,280	221	1,714	299	216	4,730
Manbhum	...	Chota Nagpur.	4,564	...	...	4,564	27	4,537	...	...	...	...	...	...
Singhbhum	515	Chota Nagpur.	2,455	...	1(5)	3,116	3	3,112	338	...	4	...	38	380
		Central Provinces.	60											
		Rajputana...	5											
		Singhbhum ...	80											
Total ...	786	...	15,903	7,075	516	24,280	350	16,839	5,056	696	2,870	4,563	429	13,614
Head office, Provincial Branch, Calcutta.	2,699	Chota Nagpur.	3,070	...	...	5,769(9)	926	4,843	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	3,16,043	...	19,973	7,075	3,077	3,46,168(12)	2,687	3,36,390	5,056	696	2,870	4,563	429	13,614

(1) Paid by Government in repayment of a loan contracted by the Hazaribagh Municipality during the famine of 1897.
(2) Grant made by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division from amounts contributed elsewhere specially for that Division.
(3) Ditto ditto ditto.
(4) Sale-proceeds of cookshods, etc.
(5) Ditto of kitchen articles.
(6) Including Rs. 3,782 remitted by the District Committee direct to Central Fund.
(7) Ditto 200 ditto.
(8) Ditto 1,166 ditto.
(9) This amount was all received from residents in Calcutta.
(10) Balance from the Relief Fund of 1897.
(11) Ditto ditto.
(12) Excluding Rs. 7,075 in column 5, which is also included in column 4, the actual total is Rs. 3,39,093.

ANNEXURE D.

Statement showing the nature and amount of relief granted from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1900, in the affected districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, Bengal.

OBJECT I.

DISTRICT.	BY GIFT OF CLOTHING OR BLANKETS.		BY ADDITION OF EXTRA FOOD OR MEDICAL COMFORTS IN GOVERNMENT POOR HOUSES, HOSPITALS AND KITCHENS.			BY ADDITION TO GOVERNMENT DOLE IN GRATUITOUS RELIEF.			OTHER FORMS OF RELIEF (SPECIFYING NATURE OF RELIEF).			TOTAL.		
	Number of persons relieved.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Rs.			Rs.			Rs.			Rs.			Rs.
Hazaribagh ...	...	...	(1) 80 (2) 150 (3) 120	66 130 110	57 230 304	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	350	306	591
Ranchi ...	217	197	(1) 75 (2) 11 (3) 242	54 8 175	127 69 244	40	30	23	364 ... 69	261 ... 50	1,141* ... 46*	1,018	578	1,847
Palamau ...	1,120	540	(1) ... (2) 210 (3) 544	... 168 422	... 158 1,573	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1,874	590	2,280
Singhbhum ...	2	1	(1) 85 (2) 45 (3) 169	41 22 57	34 36 267	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	300	120	338
Total ...	1,338	747	1,731	1,253	3,099	40	30	23	433	311	1,187	3,542	1,594	5,056

(1) Relieved for a period not exceeding 14 days;
(2) Ditto exceeding 14 days, but not exceeding a month;
(3) Relieved for over a month.
* Road and tank work.

OBJECT II.

DISTRICT.	BY SUBSIDIES TO PRIVATE ORPHANAGES.			BY ADDITION OF EXTRA FOOD OR CLOTHING OR MEDICAL COMFORTS TO ORPHANS SUPPORTED FROM STATE FUNDS.			TOTAL.		
	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Rs.			Rs.			Rs.
Hazaribagh ... (1)	...	...	...	...	...	...			
(2)	...	...	...	60	60	200	210	147	440
(3)	...	...	...	150	87	240			
Ranchi ... (1)	...	...	...	...	...	...			
(2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	13	35
(3)	15	13	35	...	...	...			
Palamau ... (1)	2	2	1	...	...	...			
(2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	8	221
(3)	7	6	220	...	...	...			
Singhbhum ... (1)	...	...	...	...	...	...			
(2)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(3)	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Total. ...	24	21	256	210	147	440	234	168	696

(1) Relieved for a period not exceeding 14 days
(2) Ditto exceeding 14 days, but not exceeding a month;
(3) Relieved for over a month.

Object III.

District.	By gift of clothing or blankets.		By money or grain dole.			By means of cheap grain shops.			By providing work in their trade to respectable poor (not being the artizans and petty shop-keepers, &c., helped under Object IV).			Total.		
	Number of persons relieved.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.	Maximum number of persons relieved in each period.	Daily average number of persons relieved in each period.	Amount of relief given.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Rs.			Rs.			Rs.			Rs.			Rs.
Hazaribagh ...	81	50	(1) ... (2) ... (3) ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	81	...	50
Ranchi ...	426	362	(1) ... (2) ... (3) 727	 655	 725	6	6	15	... ...	... ...	... ...	1,159	661	1,102
Palamau ...	697	355	(1) ... (2) 400 (3) 612	... 335 574	... 333 1,026	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	1,709	909	1,714
Singhbhum ...	...	...	(1) ... (2) 2 (3) ...	... 2 ...	... 4 ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	2	2	4
Total ...	1,204	767	1,741	1,566	2,088	6	6	15	...	...	...	2,951	1,572	2,870

(1) Relieved for a period not exceeding 14 days.
(2) Ditto exceeding 14 days, but not exceeding a month.
(3) Relieved for over a month.

Object IV.

District.	By giving seed grain, fodder, bullocks, implements of husbandry, or cash to purchase them to broken down agriculturists.			By helping artizans and petty shop-keepers and the like.		By valedictory doles to persons in receipt of Government relief on the closing of such relief.		Total number of persons helped and relieved under object IV.	Total cost.
	Number of agriculturists relieved.	Approximate area of their land.	Cost.	Number of persons helped.	Cost.	Number of persons receiving the doles.	Cost.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Hazaribagh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ranchi	640	Not available.	1,916	2	20	1,763	2,328	2,405	4,264
Palamau	29	Do.	132	...	...	2,849	167	2,878	299
Singhbhum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	669	...	2,048	2	20	4,612	2,495	5,283	4,563

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 56 I. F. C. T. F.—29-8-1901.—

00109247

Digitized with financial assistance from

Government of Maharashtra

on 01 February, 2020

REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

INDIAN FAMINE CHARITABLE RELIEF FUND, 1900,

WITH

COMPLETE ACCOUNTS AND PROCEEDINGS,

INCLUDING THE

REPORTS OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.

CALCUTTA:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA.
1901.